



USA TODAY WEEKEND

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IN LIFE
‘Bloodline’ keeps twists, drama going
“We had some pretty ugly scenes go down.”

KYLE CHANDLER, LINDA CARDELLINI, NETFLIX

RACE TOGETHER IT'S TIME TO TALK

RACE TOGETHER is an initiative from Starbucks and USA TODAY to stimulate discussion about racial inequality in America. **Special section inside**

► **Army investigates ‘Racial Thursdays,’ 1A**

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

CDC on way to ‘losing credibility’

Safety experts cite inadequate training, lack of commitment to safety.

Killer drones

U.S. campaign takes out over 500 terrorists.
► U.S. probes craft shot down in Syria.

IN MONEY

Delivery drones

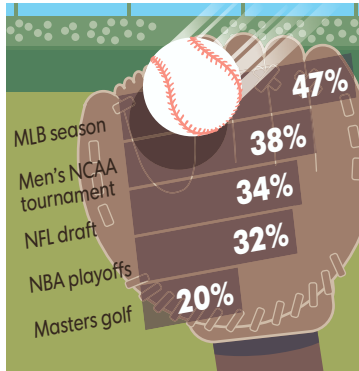
FAA will let Amazon test Prime Air drops.



USA SNAPSHOTS®

It's spring ... play ball!

Most anticipated “spring” sporting events:



Sources Sharkey Institute for Seton Hall Sports Poll of 751 U.S. adults March 2-4

ANNIE R. CAREY AND JANET LOEHKE, USA TODAY

BUSTED

THE BRACKETS AND THE MADNESS



JOHN DAVID MERCER, USA TODAY SPORTS

Georgia State coach Ron Hunter was so excited after his son hit the game-winning shot that he fell off his stool.



JAMIE RHODES, USA TODAY SPORTS

Few would have picked 14th-seeded University of Alabama at Birmingham to beat No. 3 seed Iowa State.

It was one of those flat-out, wild-eyed days for NCAA fans. Fewer than 1% of brackets were left intact before Thursday night's games tipped off, the NCAA estimates. Yet that's the beauty of March Madness. ► **See Nancy Armour, 1C**



‘Racial Thursdays’ investigated

Army looks into complaints that slurs used to build morale

Michelle Tan
Army Times

The Army is investigating allegations by soldiers in an Alaska platoon that the unit leader encouraged soldiers to use racial slurs against each other every Thursday as a way to build morale and camaraderie.

Lt. Col. Alan Brown, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Alaska, confirmed that the Army has begun an inquiry into allegations into the practice, known as “Racial Thursdays.”

Two soldiers in the platoon described the possible racial hazing to the *Army Times*. They asked that their names not be used to protect their privacy.

“The command is extremely sensitive to any allegations that involve equal opportunity or discrimination and will investigate

every allegation,” Brown said. He would not provide more details.

One of the soldiers who filed a complaint is an African-American staff sergeant who said his platoon leader encouraged “Racial Thursdays.”

The platoon is with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Fort Wainwright in Alaska.

The soldier said he was told members of the unit could make racist slurs without consequences, although none was directed at him. He said he filed a complaint to stop the practice.

The second soldier told the *Army Times* that hurling racial slurs at members of the unit was not compulsory. He cited one case in which a Hispanic member of the platoon was called demeaning names based on his ethnicity for an entire day and nearly got into a fight over the slurs.

Brown said “it’s important to emphasize that these allegations are just that ... and that’s what the investigation has been assigned to find out, exactly what happened and if anything happened.”

The platoon under investigation is part of a company involved in a controversy over ethnic hazing of a Chinese-American member who later committed suicide.

Pvt. Danny Chen committed suicide in 2011, while in Afghanistan. The Army ruled that Chen killed himself because he was hazed over his ancestry.

Investigators told his family he was called names while in training and hazed in Afghanistan.

On the day he died, Chen was forced to crawl about 100 yards across gravel carrying his equipment while fellow soldiers threw rocks at him, his family said.

At least eight soldiers were either court-martialed or administratively punished in the case.

Brown said there is “absolutely no connection” between the current investigation and the Chen case. “Treating all soldiers with dignity and respect is something this command takes extremely seriously, and when there are any indications that those values are not being followed, the command will ...take action as necessary.”

Israeli PM backs off hard-line rhetoric

Netanyahu also extends olive branch to Obama

Michele Chabin
Special for USA TODAY

JERUSALEM In conciliatory moves, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu backtracked Thursday from a pre-election vow to oppose an independent Palestinian state and reached out to repair damaged relations with President Obama.

“I don’t want a one-state solution. I want a sustainable, peaceful, two-state solution, but for that, circumstances have to change,” Netanyahu said on MSNBC’s *Andrea Mitchell Reports* in his first interview since his Likud Party won Tuesday’s election.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES
Netanyahu

Netanyahu also extended an olive branch to Obama, who called later Thursday to congratulate the prime minister on his victory.

The two leaders have feuded openly over Netanyahu’s hard-line stance on a Palestinian state, as well as over U.S. negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program.

Netanyahu pledged to work with the president. “America has no greater ally than Israel, and Israel has no greater ally than the United States,” he said Thursday.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama reiterated his support for a Palestinian state and talks with Iran on an agreement that would prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons.

Netanyahu announced his opposition to a Palestinian state Monday, saying he would work to prevent one from being established.

“I haven’t changed my policy,” Netanyahu said Thursday, referring to a speech he made in 2009 when he called for a Palestinian state. “What has changed is the reality.”

Netanyahu said Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas refuses to recognize a Jewish state and has formed a unity government with the militant Hamas, a group that calls for the destruction of Israel.

“I was talking about what is achievable and what is not achievable,” Netanyahu said. “

Contributing: Katharine Lackey in McLean, Va., and David Jackson in Washington

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VOICES

Dems: Keep an eye on Chicago

Aamer Madhani
USA TODAY



CHICAGO It ain't over, but Rahm Emanuel is in a strong position as he seeks re-election in what is turning into the hottest off-year campaign of 2015.

Three weeks after primary voters offered a surprising rebuke by forcing him into an April 7 runoff against Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, Emanuel is pulling away in the polls as he's used a huge cash advantage to bury Garcia in negative advertising.

In the ads, Emanuel's team has effectively raised doubts about whether Garcia is up to navigating the city out of a financial crisis of epic proportions — the city needs to come up with \$550 million for police and fire department pensions next year and has a projected \$20 billion in unfunded pension obligations.

Left unsaid by Emanuel as he questions Garcia's financial acumen is that Moody Investors Service recently dropped Chicago's bond rating to two notches above junk, the fifth time the rating has been declined during Emanuel's tenure.

Garcia, a Cook County commissioner who was able to win 34% of the five-candidate primary despite low name recognition and a 12th of Emanuel's campaign war chest, didn't help himself with vague answers about how he would deal with the city's financial crisis during the first one-on-one debate of the runoff earlier this week.

Despite Emanuel's trajectory, this race remains one that Democrats should be paying careful

attention to as the party looks toward 2016.

Former presidential candidate Howard Dean, who endorsed Garcia last week and has feuded with Emanuel in the past, calls the race "a David vs. Goliath battle for the future of the Democratic Party."

"Chuy Garcia will put the people first, not the 1%," Dean wrote in an e-mail to members of the liberal organization Democracy for America.

One of the main knocks by the left against Emanuel is that he

When voters see "Rahm's TV ads, they should remember who is paying for them."

Kristen Crowell, United Working Families

represents the corporatization of the Democratic Party.

Liberals are enraged by how a few wealthy conservative donors — such as Sheldon Adelson and the Koch brothers — have managed to have an outsize voice in the national political conversation by pouring millions of dollars into campaigns they support. But there is a nary a peep from the Democratic establishment when similar tactics are employed by their own.

Here in Chicago, Emanuel's campaign and a political action committee aligned with him and city council allies have raised a combined \$30 million. Overall, about 100 donors have donated

the bulk of Emanuel's campaign war chest.

One mega-donor, billionaire Ken Griffin, has given about \$1 million to pro-Emanuel campaign committees over the last year, including \$750,000 since March 2. The founder of a successful hedge fund, in the past he has tended to give to GOP candidates, such as the \$8 million he gave to the successful 2014 campaign of Illinois GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner.

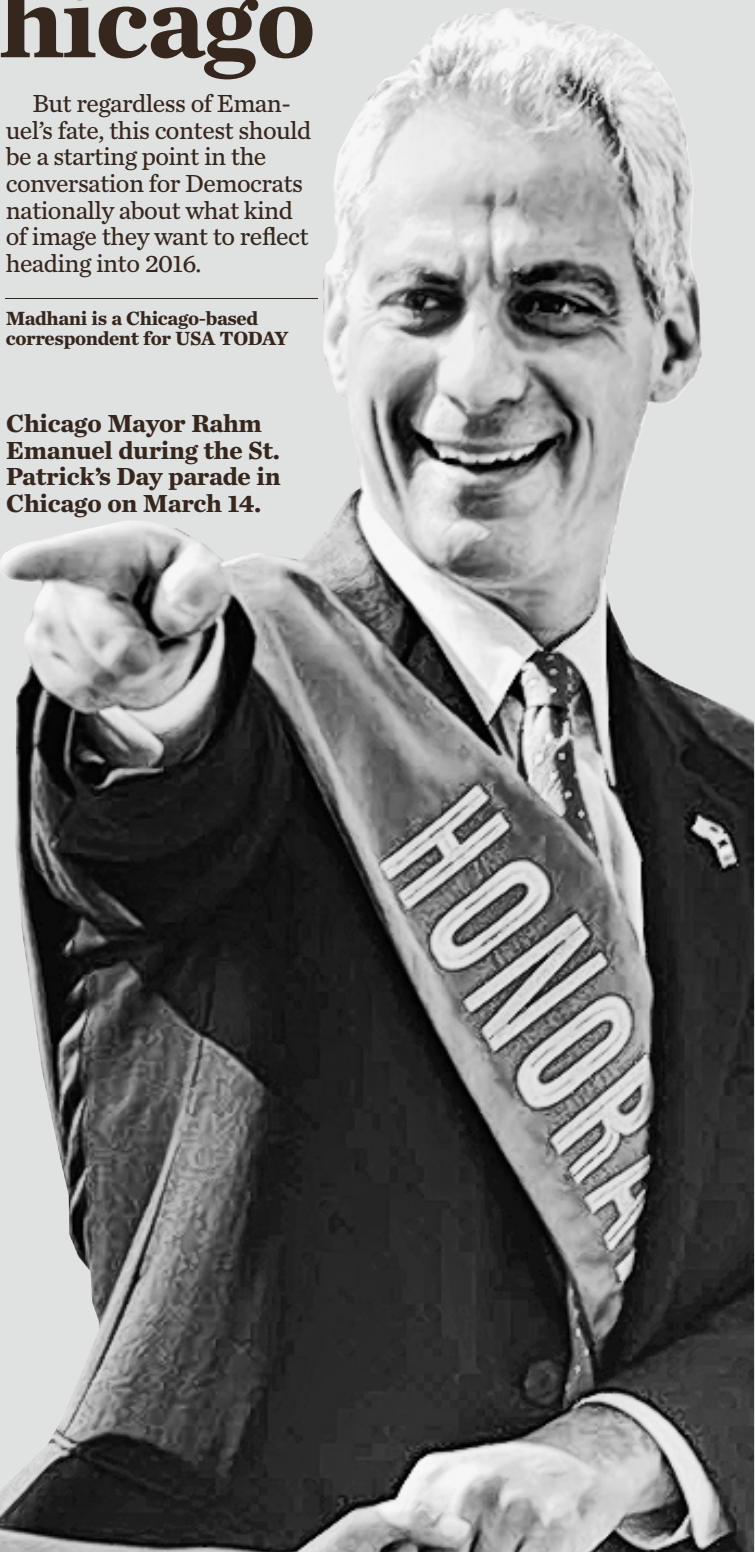
When voters see "Rahm's TV ads, they should remember who is paying for them," said Kristen Crowell, executive director of United Working Families, a group that's backed Garcia. "It's Republican billionaires who have a different vision of Chicago's future than the rest of us. And that's who Rahm is really working for."

At the heart of Garcia's campaign is the message that Emanuel has ignored Chicago's mosaic of neighborhoods and thrown resources into bolstering the city's glittering downtown.

Emanuel also been hit for running roughshod over parents in predominantly minority neighborhoods, where he closed 50 city schools with low enrollment. At the same time, the first-term mayor has backed the expansion of charter schools.

In his first TV ad of the runoff campaign, released Wednesday, Garcia attacks Emanuel for being driven by his allies' financial interests when it comes to education policy. Charter school advocates have donated more than \$700,000 to Emanuel's campaign, Garcia says.

Come April 7, my hunch is more Chicagoans will be voting based on their concerns about the city's mounting financial crisis. If so, Emanuel should win easily.



PAUL BEATY, AP

Frank 'frightened' of consequences Netanyahu could bring on Israel



WASHINGTON Former 16-term congressman Barney Frank, a leading Jewish politician and longtime advocate for Israel, says he is "very frightened" that the hard-line positions taken by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his successful election campaign will undermine Israel's relationship not only with the United States but around the world.

"Frankly, it takes a great deal of indifference to world opinion to be in some ways less popular than the fanatical, murderous barbarians of the Islamic State," Frank told Capital Download. "He should be able to take advantage of the world's horror at this group, at the unfortunate chaos

in the Arab world, at the inability in many countries for them to function, and instead by saying, 'I'm not going to be for a Palestinian state,' whatever, he directs more problems to Israel."

Later Thursday, Netanyahu seemed to soften his campaign declaration that no Palestinian state would be established during his tenure, saying on MSNBC he still supported the idea of a two-state solution, but the goal wasn't "achievable" now.

"The announcement that he is no longer committed to a Palestinian state will do Israel great damage," Frank told USA TODAY's weekly video newsmaker series. "An announcement that they intend forever, no matter what, to govern the Palestinians as subjects — I think that's a mistake. It's bad for Israel; it's bad for Israeli democracy, and it's terrible for Israeli relations."

The risks for Israel could include economic boycotts in



H. DARR BEISER, USA TODAY

"Frankly, it takes a great deal of indifference to world opinion to be in some ways less popular than the fanatical, murderous barbarians of the Islamic State."

Europe and increased support in the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state, he said.

He urged American Jews to

press the Israeli government to change course: "When your friend is doing something that will be damaging, I think it's your obligation to tell him that."

The Massachusetts Democrat was the first member of Congress to voluntarily reveal that he was gay, in 1987.

In an interview about his memoir, *Frank*, published this week by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, he discussed the advice he gives gay men and lesbians considering political careers.

"The price you pay for repressing yourself is very, very high," he said, "and I would advise you that, yes, it's better to be honest about what you are for your own mental health." Until he did so, he said, "my default position was unhappiness, sadness, anger."



NOW PLAYING ONLINE
See the interview at usatoday.com

Secret Service: 'There was no crash'

Kevin Johnson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy told a Senate panel Thursday that previous reports of a car crash interrupting a bomb investigation at the White House complex were overstated.

"There was no crash," Clancy told the committee, describing a March 4 incident in which two senior Secret Service agents abruptly entered the scene of a bomb investigation after attending a party at a nearby restaurant. He said the agents' car nudged an orange barricade marking the perimeter of the investigation. There was no reported damage to the car.

The incident, including allegations that the agents had been drinking, is now being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general.

As he told a House committee earlier this week, Clancy said he wasn't informed of the incident until five days later.

The director said there were at least two video clips of the agents' car rolling into the investigation scene, but he said video of the car initially entering the checkpoint area had been taped over by subsequent surveillance footage because video is only required to be maintained for 72 hours. It is still possible to retrieve the footage, he said, and forensic experts will be examining the recording.

Clancy said the agency is in the midst of restructuring and is bolstering the physical security of the White House that would involve a new perimeter fence. On Sept. 19 a man scaled the barrier and bolted through the front door before he was apprehended.

Construction of the new fence, he said, would take more than a year. In the interim, temporary options will be added to the existing fence line by the summer.



GETTY IMAGES

Joseph Clancy

IN BRIEF

CLASHES FORCE CLOSURE OF YEMEN'S ADEN AIRPORT

The international airport in the southern Yemeni port city of Aden was forced to close Thursday, as forces loyal to Yemen's former president waged gunbattles with security forces loyal to the current president.

A unit of police commandos loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was ousted following a popular uprising in 2011, entered part of the airport grounds but were resisted by security forces and militias supporting President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Reuters and the Associated Press reported that the Hadi loyalists secured control of the airport after more than four hours of battle.

— Jane Onyanga-Omara

STUDY: GAY MEN TAN MORE AND GET MORE SKIN CANCER

Gay and bisexual men in the United States are twice as likely as heterosexual men to get skin cancer, a new study shows.

One likely reason: Gay and bisexual men are three times more

MONKS CELEBRATE IN BEIJING



WANG ZHAO, AP/GETTY IMAGES

Tibetan monks dressed as demons attend the Beating Ghost festival at the Yonghe Temple, also known as the Lama Temple, in Beijing on Thursday.

likely to engage in indoor tanning, according to the study to be presented today in San Francisco at a meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology.

The study suggests that anti-tanning messages, most often aimed at young women, need to be broader, says researcher Sarah Arron, an associate professor of

dermatology at the University of California, San Francisco.

"The primary reason that men and women engage in indoor tanning is because of the cultural association of tanning with a healthy look and overall attractiveness," Arron says. "We need to dispel the myth of the healthy tan."

TUNISIANS RALLY AT ATTACK SITE

Outrage after 21 killed; Islamic State says it's responsible

John Bacon
and William M. Welch
USA TODAY

Angry Tunisians rallied in solidarity Thursday outside the museum where two gunmen had killed 21 people after the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the bloody attack.

Most of the dead were foreign tourists, 17 of them from cruise ships. Five major ship companies said Thursday they were canceling future arrivals scheduled for Tunisia.

Twelve of the dead were passengers on the MSC Splendida and five from the Costa Fascinosa. They were visiting the National Bardo Museum in Tunis, birthplace of the Arab Spring democracy movement, when the gunmen stormed it Wednesday. The two gunmen were killed by police.

Thursday, police announced the arrest of nine people. Five of them were described as being directly tied to the two gunmen. The other four were accused of having ties to the terrorist cell involved.

Culture Minister Latifa Lakhdar spoke defiantly at the museum, where Roman-era mosaics are on display and where about



SALAH HABIBI, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A relative of a victim of Wednesday's Tunis attack is comforted by friends as he stands outside Charles Nicole hospital's morgue.



SOFIENE HAMADAQULI, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A woman holds a sign that reads, "Tunisia will remain standing" at a rally in Tunisia.

500 people held a moment of silence before singing Tunisia's national anthem. Marchers carried signs saying, "No to terrorism," and "Tunisia is bloodied but still standing."

"They are targeting knowledge. They are targeting science. They are targeting reason. They are targeting history. They are targeting memory, because all

these things mean nothing in their eyes," Lakhdar said of the attackers.

The Islamic State released an

"They are targeting knowledge. They are targeting science. They are targeting reason. They are targeting history."

Culture Minister Latifa Lakhdar

online recording claiming responsibility. The group praised the "knights of the Islamic State" for the attack and called the museum a "den of infidels and vice."

The slain gunmen were identified as Yassine Laabidi and Ha-

tem Khachnaoui, both Tunisians. Prime Minister Habib Essid said Laabidi had been flagged by intelligence authorities, though not for "anything special."

More than 3,000 Tunisians have joined Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, the Tunisian government estimates.

Japanese tourist Noriko Yuki, 35, said she was on the second floor of the museum when a gunman opened fire. Yuki, in a Tunisian hospital, told Japan's NHK that she also heard an explosion.

U.S. first lady Michelle Obama, visiting Tokyo, said she and President Obama "express our condolences over the horrific event."

Contributing: Jane Onyanga-Omara

Safety experts slam CDC practices

Facilities have had lapses in handling deadly pathogens

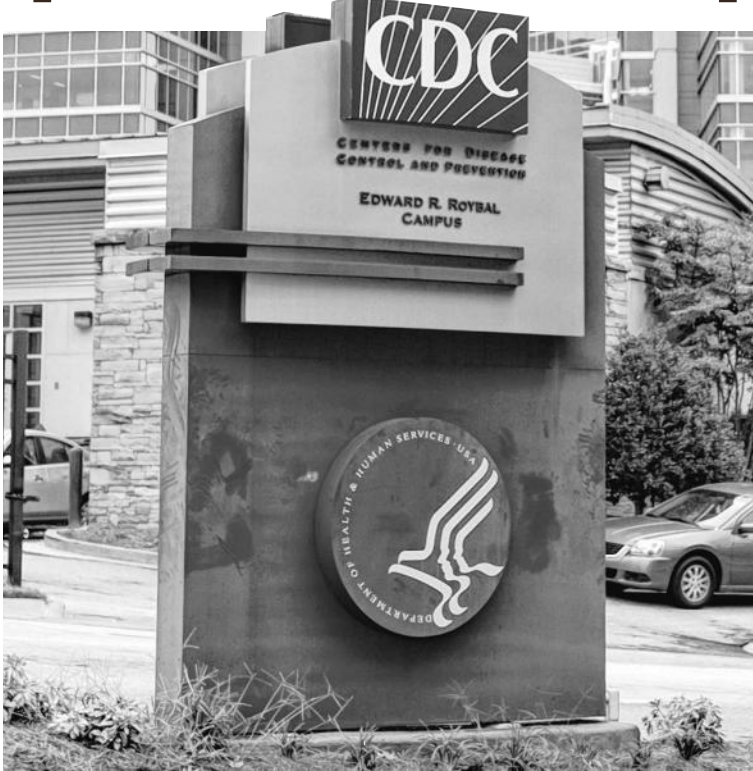
Alison Young
USA TODAY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which recently had lab mishaps involving some of the world's most dangerous pathogens, does "inadequate" training, lacks leadership commitment toward safety and has a significant percentage of staff who are afraid to report accidents, according to the agency's own safety advisers.

"We are very concerned that the CDC is on the way to losing credibility," wrote the group of external biosafety experts, appointed by the agency as advisers in the wake of high-profile accidents with anthrax and bird flu last year. "The CDC must not see itself as 'special'. The internal controls and rules that the rest of the world works under also apply to CDC."

The CDC quietly posted the experts' report on its website this week. It is dated Jan. 13 — six months after CDC Director Tom Frieden testified before Congress that he'd taken significant steps to address safety issues. The Atlanta-based agency's high-security labs do wide-ranging public health experiments, including work with the Ebola virus to help combat the ongoing outbreaks in Africa and examinations of anthrax to create better detection methods for bioterror agents.

"It's critical that we continue to solicit feedback on how we can improve our operations, especially functions as critical as lab safe-



JESSICA MCGOWAN, GETTY IMAGES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

AMONG THE REPORT'S FINDINGS

- Risk assessments of proposed experiments aren't standardized and sometimes aren't done at all.
- Lab safety training is inadequate.
- Leadership commitment toward safety has been inconsistent and insufficient at multiple levels.
- An employee survey found "a significant percentage" of staffers fear reporting lab incidents will result in repercussions personally or for the agency.

ty," the CDC's chief operating officer, Sherri Berger, said Wednesday, noting that many actions are underway to address the committee's recommendations.

In a statement to USA TODAY, the agency said that although the findings of the outside experts were presented in January, the

work group "began its review of CDC's laboratories in August and did the bulk of its assessment at CDC in August and September. So the report reflects observations of the work group made several months ago."

Still, on Dec. 22, the CDC experienced another serious lab inci-

dent, this one involving a mix-up with specimens of the deadly Ebola virus that resulted in the potential exposure of a lab worker who had to undergo 21 days of monitoring during the holidays. The worker was never sickened, and the agency's internal investigation determined there may have been no live virus in the specimens after all.

The Ebola incident came after an anthrax incident in June potentially exposed dozens of CDC employees to that bioterror agent and another incident in early 2014 that involved sending a biological specimen to another federal laboratory that had been unknowingly cross-contaminated with a lethal strain of avian influenza.

U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., said the report confirms what his subcommittee, which held a hearing last July, suspected: "An agency desperately in need of a rededication to safety and accountability. Given the nature of its work with dangerous toxins and deadly pathogens, the CDC must be held to a much higher standard than other government entities."

U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado, the ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, noted that CDC leadership assured the committee they were working to improve their safety culture. "They clearly have more work to do," she said.

The report makes almost 20 recommendations, and the CDC said it is already acting to enhance biosafety training, clarify policies, standardize protocols and ensure they are followed. The agency is recruiting to fill a new position of associate director for Laboratory Science and Safety.

Downed drone in Syria prompts questions

Tom Vanden Brook
and David Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON Military and intelligence officials continued Thursday to comb through clues about what prompted the Syrian military to shoot down an unarmed U.S. Predator drone there earlier this week, according to a senior Defense Department official.

The attack could represent a serious escalation if the Syrians shot the unmanned plane down in a region that had previously been deemed safe for operations.



JOHN MOORE, GETTY IMAGES

More and more Predator drones are a key part of U.S. strategy. Story, 8A

But it appears the mistake may have been on part of U.S. forces who allowed the drone to stray into sensitive airspace, said the

senior official and another officer. Both are have seen reports about the incident but are not authorized to speak about it publicly.

Reaching a definitive conclusion on the reason for the attack may not come for days, the Pentagon official said.

So far, the Pentagon and White House have declined to say publicly what caused the plane to crash on Tuesday. But White House press secretary Josh Earnest reiterated warnings Thursday that Syrian President Bashar Assad should not interfere with the air war on extremists from the Islamic State.

Complicating the investigation

is the fact that the drone was operated by the military's European Command, not Central Command, which oversees the military's air war in Syria and Iraq. European Command operates aircraft from a base inside Turkey, a neighbor of Syria.

European Command officials have to account for why their drone was in Syrian airspace, according to the officer.

The Syrian attack, the officer said, appears to have been a normal reaction to a foreign warplane in sensitive airspace. The Predator went down in an area with no known ISIS activity, according to the Pentagon official.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ONLINE

TODAY'S MUST-READS



GETTY IMAGES

► **Look to the skies** for a solar eclipse and a supermoon

► **Hoop crazy!** We report from every **March Madness** site

MOST-CLICKED STORIES



► **Personal trainer is killed by train** as he makes exercise video

► **Food Network killings tied to teen who vanished**

COOL STUFF



JNTO

► **Tasting tour: Amazing** culinary treats in Tokyo and Kyoto

► **Animal antics: 9 things** you didn't know you could do at zoos

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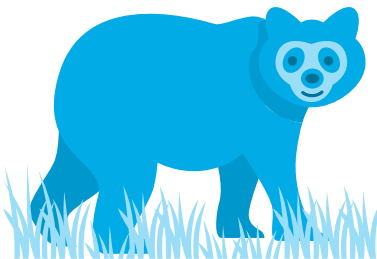
STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Athens: A judge ordered the mayor of Hartselle to serve two years of probation after he pleaded guilty to a drunken driving charge, *The Decatur Daily* reported. Mayor Don Hall was arrested Sept. 5 after being stopped by a state trooper on Interstate 65.

ALASKA Anchorage: A man was seriously injured in a fight with a woman that involved a knife and a non-operating chain saw, KTUU-TV reported.

ARIZONA Phoenix: What is black and white and red all over? Late Wednesday, it was the Phoenix Zoo's young Andean bear and the cub's embarrassed keepers when they admitted that Luka the bear was a she, not a he, as previously thought, *The Arizona Republic* reported.



ARKANSAS Baxter: Ray Gilley bowled his 50th career 300 game March 7 at Driftwood Lanes. The 73-year-old has accumulated 50 300 games and 20 800 series, *The Baxter Bulletin* reported.

CALIFORNIA Truckee: Sugar Bowl ski resort says Sunday will be the last day of the season. Snow conditions have deteriorated, and no more snow is forecast. Six resorts have closed prematurely in the area, *The Sacramento Bee* reported.

COLORADO Westminster: Police say a developmentally disabled teen was taken into custody after hugging a small child, KUSA-TV reported. The child thought the teen was trying to kidnap him. The older teen was hanging fliers in the neighborhood when he approached the child and gave him a hug.

CONNECTICUT Stamford: Police arrested a third suspect in a fatal stabbing that police say began as a fight over spilled coffee, *The Stamford Advocate* reported. A 17-year-old Stamford resident was arrested and charged with hindering prosecution.

DELAWARE Dover: A federal judge sentenced a former office manager to 45 months imprisonment for embezzling more than \$1 million from a Dover medical practice, *The News Journal* reported.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Nine students from eight District schools were told they will receive full-ride scholarships to George Washington University. The "Prize Patrol" — GW President Steven Knapp, the university's dean of admissions and the school mascot — delivered the good news in person, WUSA-TV reported.

FLORIDA Cape Canaveral: NASA awarded United Launch Alliance a \$389.1 million contract to launch a solar probe from Cape Canaveral in 2018 atop a Delta IV Heavy rocket, *Florida Today* reported. The Solar Probe Plus mission will send the first spacecraft to study the sun's outer atmosphere.

GEORGIA Atlanta: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources camera is streaming live video of a pair of peregrine falcons nesting atop SunTrust Plaza Tower, LakeLanier.com reported.

HAWAII Honolulu: The Japanese restaurant company IKKA Dining Project will open its first restaurant outside Japan, in Hawaii, the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* reported. The restaurant, Golden Pork Ton-Kotsu Ramen Bar, will open March 29 on King Street.

IDAHO Clark Fork: A jawbone that could be human and other bones were found in a lakebed, the *Bonner County Daily Bee* reported.

HIGHLIGHT: MARYLAND

Ocean City snuffs out beach smoke

Brian Shane
USA TODAY

OCEAN CITY No more lighting up in your folding chair, surrounded by other beachgoers. No more strolling along the Ocean City boardwalk with a lit cigarette in hand.

The resort town has finalized its smoking restrictions for the beach and boardwalk. Smokers will have to stand to the back of the beach near the dunes, or keep it within 15 feet of a boardwalk ashtray. The law comes with a \$500 fine for violators, though officials say the rule will have to be self-policed. The restrictions take effect May 1.

The council passed the law Monday on second reading with a 5-0 vote, with two council members absent.

"I'm so grateful," resort resident David Murdock told council members. "It's one of the best things you've ever done for Ocean City, and I appreciate it."

Murdock lives at the English Towers high-rise condominium building. He said he's been pushing council members to implement smoking restrictions since 2010.

"It's not a rights thing, it's not an economics thing. It's a secondhand smoke thing," he said. "People have the right to carry



NIKKI KAHN, THE WASHINGTON POST

Ocean City's smoking restrictions will take effect May 1. The law comes with a \$500 fine for violators.

a gun; it doesn't give them a right to shoot people. Being exposed to secondhand smoke is what it amounts to."

Along with the law, council members passed a resolution that designates specific areas for smoking and/or vaping — the smoke that comes from e-cigarettes.

"We'll see 100,000 more people come, and they'll have more money to spend because they won't be spending \$8 a pack on cigarettes," Councilwoman Mary Knight said.

The plan, finalized in Janu-

ary, calls for putting 15 knee-high stone ashtrays along the 2.25-mile boardwalk, as well as 22-gallon orange metal barrels along the town's 10 miles of beaches. Lifeguards won't be expected to enforce the rule.

It's estimated that roughly 700,000 out of 8 million annual visitors to Ocean City smoke. Similar smoking restrictions have been enacted in Delaware resort towns of Bethany Beach and Rehoboth Beach.

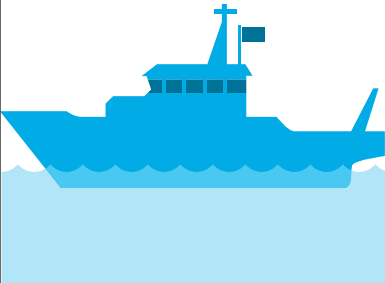
Shane also reports for the (Salisbury, Md.) *Daily Times*.

Matthew Laughead, 24, received a one-year suspended sentence and a year of probation.

MICHIGAN Detroit: A Marshall M. Fredericks sculpture in Northland Center could go to auction this year as the soon-to-close mall undergoes a liquidation sale, the *Detroit Free Press* reported. The sculpture, called *Boy and Bear*, has stood outside the former J.L. Hudson store (now Macy's) since Northland opened in 1954.

MINNESOTA Sauk Rapids: An investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board determined that a small plane probably crashed because it lost pitch control when the plane's canopy opened during the flight, the *St. Cloud Times* reported.

MISSISSIPPI Hattiesburg: The Point Sur — the University of Southern Mississippi's new research vessel — has three labs: a 488-square-foot main laboratory, a 96-square-foot wet lab and a 120-square-foot electronics lab, *The Hattiesburg American* reported.



MISSOURI Marble Hill: A man accused of fatally shooting his brother will go on trial in November, *The Southeast Missourian* reported. A Bollinger County judge set a trial date of Nov. 19 for Lonnie Liley, 43.

MONTANA Helena: The *Billings-Gazette* reported that Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.4% in January, down from 5.3% in January 2014.

NEBRASKA North Platte: A man accused of duping two men into paying him thousands to lease pastureland he didn't own was convicted of theft, KNOP-TV reported. Riley Hubert, 33, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft.

NEVADA Carson City: Legislators continue to debate controversial AB 253, which would require voters to show ID at voting places. Republicans favor this effort to make the voting process more secure, but Democrats say the requirement may discourage voters, KOLO-TV reported.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: Democratic Gov. Hassan plans to cut \$7 million in Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes,

a response to the \$58 million deficit in the Department of Health and Human Services budget. The Senate Finance Committee chair, Republican Jeanie Forrester, introduced a bill that would block the cuts, *The Heartland Institute* reported.

NEW JERSEY Somerville: A Catholic school teacher who was suspended after a social media firestorm over anti-gay comments she posted on Facebook is looking for donations, the *Courier-News* reported.

NEW MEXICO Santa Fe: The school board voted to explore the possibility of switching the campuses of two alternative-education high schools before the next school year begins in August, *The Santa Fe New Mexican* reported. The Academy at Larragoite and the Mandela International Magnet School would swap facilities to meet the needs of their student enrollments.

NEW YORK Binghamton: Though the state is looking at approving casinos for the Finger Lakes, Catskills and Albany region, the Southern Tier region will have a second shot at having its own casino when the state Gaming Commission meets next week to consider a new request for applications, the *Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin* reported.

NORTH CAROLINA Raleigh: State lawmakers say they will delay Gov. McCrory's appointments to key government jobs after a court ruled the Legislature overstepped its bounds in creating commissions to deal with fracking and coal ash dominated by legislative appointees, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* reported.

NORTH DAKOTA Minot: Minot Air Force Base celebrates the completion of a \$36 million B-52 bomber maintenance facility, *The Minot Daily News* reported. The 80,000-square-foot building is the base's first facility capable of fully enclosing two bombers at one time.

OHIO Miami Township: A woman who missed her initial flight home last month ended up helping to save the lives of three people on her subsequent flight, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* reported. Rosa Miller, 50, a retired paramedic/firefighter, helped a doctor Feb. 11 with a passenger who had a probable heart attack, another person who had a diabetic emergency and a third passenger whose severe allergic reaction required treatment with an epinephrine pen.

OKLAHOMA Vinita: Goose poop could be the cause of the rise in bacteria levels at Grand

Lake beach last year, *Tulsa World* reported. The beach was closed to swimmers from June to November.

OREGON Clatskanie: The owner of an oil train terminal agreed to pay a reduced fine for moving six times more crude oil in 2013 than was allowed, *The Oregonian* reported. The fine was cut by \$15,000, to \$102,292.

PENNSYLVANIA Bethlehem: No students were involved in a stabbing outside a bar near Lehigh University, WCAU-TV reported.

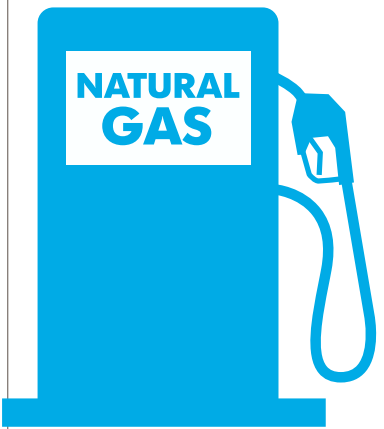
RHODE ISLAND Westerly: A school committee member filed a complaint with the state attorney general's office, *The Westerly Sun* reported. Gina Fuller said the Town Council violated the state Open Meetings Act.

SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia: Pi Kappa Alpha, a University of South Carolina fraternity, is on administrative suspension after the death of a student early Wednesday morning, WLTX-TV reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA Brookings: A resident was bitten by a cat that tested positive for rabies, the *Argus Leader* reported. The state's last human case of rabies occurred in 1970 when a rabid skunk bit a 3-year-old who died.

TENNESSEE Nashville: The state's constitution bars people who don't believe in God from holding public office, and though a U.S. Supreme Court ruling gives such provisions few teeth, atheists want this discrimination against non-religious citizens off the books, *The Tennessean* reported.

TEXAS Austin: There are 130 natural gas filling stations across the state, a 25% increase since September, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.



UTAH St. George: A teenager accused of shooting a cat with a blowgun and killing it pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated animal cruelty, *The Spectrum* reported.

VERMONT Essex: A 17-year-old boy attempted to hang himself at the state-operated Woodside Juvenile Detention Center, the *Burlington Free Press* reported. The boy was taken to a hospital.

VIRGINIA Norfolk: A former Virginia Beach broker has been sentenced to more than four years in prison for taking clients' money, *The Virginian-Pilot* reported.

WASHINGTON Seattle: University of Washington computer science teacher Stuart Reges prepares for final exams in the kitchen, KING-TV reported. While his students study, he bakes hundreds of chocolate chip cookies.

WEST VIRGINIA Fayetteville: Bridge Day organizers approved an optional security measure, *The Register-Herald* reported. Bridge Day is the only time that BASE jumping is allowed from the New River Gorge Bridge.

WISCONSIN Green Bay: The war against oxygen-depleting phosphorus in the waters of Green Bay will get \$240,000 in reinforcements, *Green Bay Press-Gazette* reported.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Patients can receive discounts at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center if they pay their bills in full by April 30, the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* reported.

Selected contributions from Morgan Baskin, Dominique Bonessi, Madeleine Deason, Richard Fields, Emma Hinchliffe, Kristin Musulin, Sierra Oshrin, Junius Randolph, Kelsey Rupp, Kaitlyn Russell, Ben Sheffer, Catherine Sheffo, Kelsey Sutton and Marieke van der Vaart. Design by Tiffany Reusser. Graphics by Alejandro Gonzalez.

Berlin dog lovers howling mad

Leashes, licenses could be required

Angela Waters
Special for USA TODAY

BERLIN Dog lovers here are howling over a proposed measure to tighten the leash on hounds in a city accustomed to giving their canine friends freedom to run — and poop — wherever they want.

“If dogs have to be on a leash, you should ban dogs from Berlin,” Wolfgang Apel, president of the Berlin Animal Protection Society, said at a protest against the measure earlier this week. “This law is not bettering things for humans or dogs.”

A few dozen protesters and their pooches came to the city’s iconic Paris Square on Tuesday to take a defiant stand — or obedient sit for the collies, labs and sheep dogs — against the bill.

The measure, submitted by Justice Senator Thomas Heilmann, would require leashes for canines in public and would mandate dog owners carry bags and get dog licenses. Four dog breeds would be deemed dangerous and required to wear muzzles: pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, bull terrier and Tosa Inu.

While such laws are considered normal for most cities in the



TOBIAS SCHWAZ, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Dogs in Berlin such as these can run free, but proposed legislation to change that has dog owners howling. “I won’t punish my dog,” says Berlin resident Andree Meralopez, not pictured.

western world, Berliners guard the freedom for their dogs to roam freely, accompany them to restaurants and bars untethered and ride the metro.

The current law merely forbids Berlin’s 95,000 dog owners from letting pets roam free in certain areas such as playgrounds and in-

cludes a small fine for dogs off leashes in some places.

Heilmann and other backers of the measure say the law is necessary to maintain order and sanitation in a city of 3 million where it is common for apartment dwellers to find surprise “gifts” from dogs on their front stoops.

“We want as many people as possible to obtain a dog license,” Heilmann said in a statement.

“People who know what they are doing are going to be more conscientious.”

Some Berliners agree.

“You see dogs running around everywhere,” said Berlin resident

“I wouldn’t bring a dog to Berlin if it passes. I’d take him somewhere where he can run free.”

Wolfgang Apel, president of the Berlin Animal Protection Society

Theresa Wagner, 24. “But you should actually have your dog on a leash in the city.”

The Berlin Animal Welfare Society said it opposes the proposed legislation for animal cruelty reasons, saying it is unkind to not allow dogs to run freely.

If the law passes, Apel said he believes the city will no longer be a safe haven for man’s best friend.

“I wouldn’t bring a dog to Berlin if it passes,” Apel said. “I’d take him somewhere where he can run free.”

Opponents also think the licenses will be unenforceable and waste tax money that could be going to dog parks.

Andree Meralopez and his standard poodle, Albert, attended Tuesday’s rally. Like many other Berlin residents, Meralopez says that fines will not deter him.

“I have paid the fine before for letting him run free, and I will do it again,” Meralopez said. “I won’t punish my dog.”

Freaky Friday: Eclipse, Supermoon, equinox

A triad of unusual events welcomes spring

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

First the aurora borealis, and now a solar eclipse and a Supermoon occur today, the first day of spring.

Unfortunately, the total eclipse will not be visible in the USA and will be seen only by folks on some remote islands in far northern Europe this morning. Residents of the Danish-owned Faroe Islands and the sparsely inhabited Norwegian island group of Svalbard will be the lucky ones to see the full spectacle.

A partial solar eclipse will be

visible across all of Europe, northern Africa and much of northern Asia, according to Space.com. A partial solar eclipse occurs when the moon obscures only part of the sun from Earth’s view.

“Depending on where you are in Europe, you will see anywhere from roughly 50 to nearly 99% of the sun’s diameter eclipsed by the moon,” according to Space.com’s Joe Rao.

This is the Earth’s first — and only — total solar eclipse of the year, and the first one since November 2013, NASA reports.

The next total solar eclipse in the USA will be in August 2017.



GREG WOOD, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

There will be two lunar eclipses in the USA this year: April 4 and Sept. 28.

Two other astronomical events will take place today: the spring (or vernal) equinox, which marks the beginning of spring in the

The Diamond Ring effect occurs in a solar eclipse Nov. 14, 2012, in Palm Cove, Australia.

Northern Hemisphere, and a so-called Supermoon.

The Supermoon is a full or new moon that occurs during the moon’s closest approach to Earth on its elliptical orbit, according to AccuWeather.

When full, the Supermoon appears bigger and brighter than usual in the night sky. Since this Supermoon is during a new moon, it will not be visible, but it will block out the sun during the solar eclipse.

The spring equinox, when the sun shines directly on the equator and gives the two hemispheres a nearly equal amount of sunlight, occurs at 6:45 p.m. ET.



@AlanGomez

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YOUR SAY

Tracking the nation's conversation

NFL

Rookie smart to retire before injuries take toll

FACEBOOK
FACEBOOK.COM/USATODAYOPINION

Chris Borland, one of the top rookies last year, is retiring from the NFL. He is concerned about the long-term effects of head injuries.

Chris Borland is one of my favorite Wisconsin Badgers of all time. It is a courageous and smart decision. He proved he could play with the best.

Jamie Kahn

This is a smart move, considering the impact of head injuries and their lifelong effect.

The NFL is going to start seeing more early retirements if these types of injuries keep happening. Good luck in life, Borland.

Francisco Prado

You had better not drive a car because you might get in an accident? Or go skiing because you might get a broken leg? Or saw a board, get on a ladder, sky dive or do anything but sit in a chair?

Borland knew of the dangers

Long-term effects are legitimate worries

TWITTER
@USATOPINION

We asked our followers for thoughts on Chris Borland's retirement and what the NFL should do in response.

What should NFL do? Exactly what it has done. Wish him a wonderful life. Then work on better helmets and pads.

@ErickJos

QUICK BIO



USA TODAY SPORTS

The San Francisco 49ers picked Chris Borland in the third round of last year's draft.

AGE: 24

HEIGHT: 5-feet-11-inches

WEIGHT: 248 pounds

COLLEGE: Wisconsin

HOMETOWN: Kettering, Ohio

Source 49ers.com

before signing on and wasting the NFL's time with training.

Carol Ottinger

It is nice to see a young man take care of himself. The owners don't care; they use up guys like Borland and throw them away

after a few years. This choice should be applauded. Sometimes you have to quit for your personal good.

Timothy Brown

This is much ado about nothing. Everybody knows that smoking is terrible for your health, but still millions of Americans do it.

Eric Anderson

All things considered — players retiring early, lawsuits and greed — the NFL will be as relevant as boxing in the next 20 years.

Mark Bondi

NFL players retiring "early" will become more prevalent from here on out, and I think the league will evolve. In 15 to 20 years, the NFL just will become a league where every player, besides maybe kicker/punter and elite QBs, plays for even fewer years.

It may affect the product, but for all we know, it could turn into something even more popular. I honestly don't know if there is anything that can stop the business that is the NFL.

Jared Glickman

TOON TALK



JOHN COLE, THE (SCRANTON PA.) TIMES-TRIBUNE, CAGLE CARTOONS

CARTOONS
OPINION.USATODAY.COM

For more of the week's best, check out our gallery online.

OBJECTIONS

A DISSERVICE TO MARINES
It is unconscionable that USA TODAY would use the tragedy of the March 10 military helicopter crash in Florida to criticize the unit to which the Marines were assigned, citing a controversial incident that occurred eight years ago in Afghanistan ("Copter crash marks another dark chapter for Marine unit," USATODAY.com, March 12).

The two events are completely unrelated, and the story shamelessly devotes a few paragraphs to the crash in order to rehash old allegations against a small unit within the command — most of which were found unsubstantiated through investigations and a court of inquiry.

Linking the crash with the Afghanistan case was uncalled for and a disservice to the dedicated Marines of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special

Operations Command and their families.

Col. Dave Lapan, director
Office of USMC Communication
Washington, D.C.

JOB LOSSES
The article "10 companies that cut the most jobs in 2014" is an example of poor journalism with an anti-business agenda (Money, Sunday). It leads by emphasizing that sometimes "higher profits come with a human cost," thereby denigrating business. Yet, in most of the 10 examples, the job loss was primarily due to a sale or spinoff of a subsidiary in which employees did not lose their jobs but just changed the name of their employer. It is not enough to say the salient details are in the article if the intro stressed a conclusion mostly unsupported by them.

Robert Herlin
Asheville, NC

TO COMMENT Have Your Say at letters@usatoday.com, facebook.com/usatodayopinion and @USATOpinion on Twitter. All comments are edited for length and clarity. Content submitted to USA TODAY may appear in print, digital or other forms. For letters, include name, address and phone number. Letters may be mailed to 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA, 22108.

WEATHER

WEATHER ONLINE
USATODAY.COM

Panama Canal Cruise \$1195 + tax & fees
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caravan.com

FRONT & CENTER

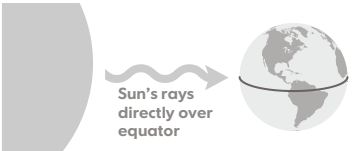
● Greatest threat for spring floods



On this date in 2003, a three-day snowstorm ended in Colorado; over six feet of snow fell in the Rockies.

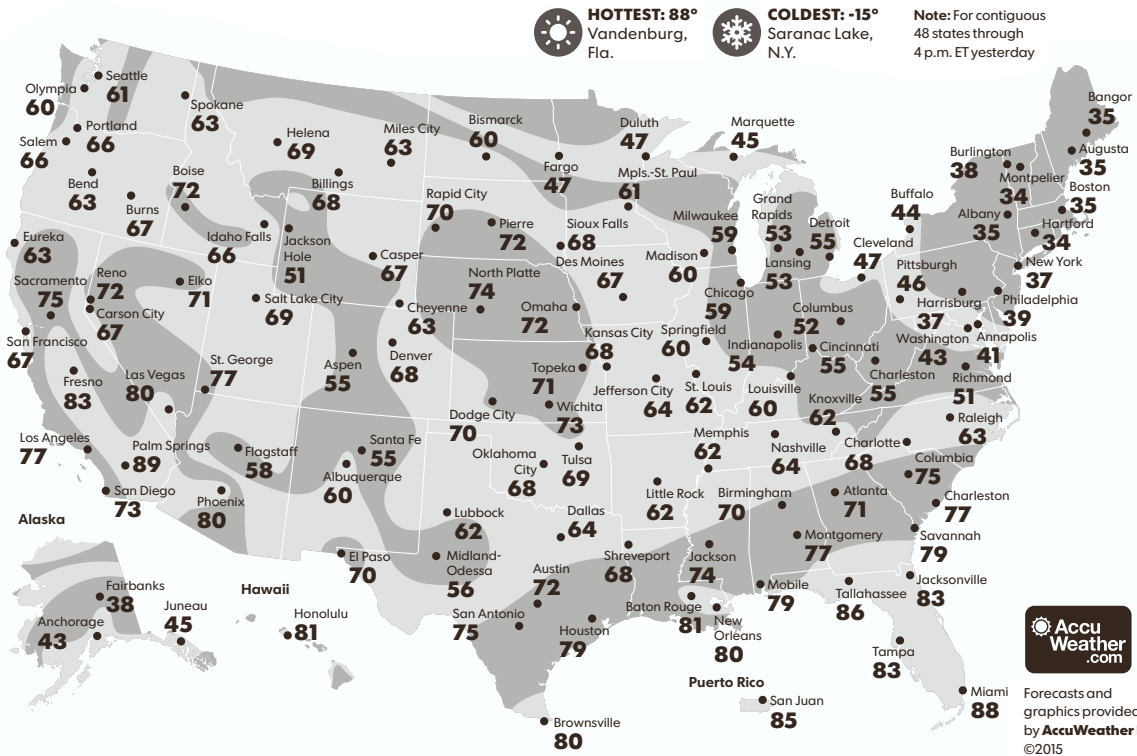
WHAT'S THE SPRING EQUINOX?

It's when the rays of the sun shine directly on the equator; it happens today at 6:45 p.m. ET.

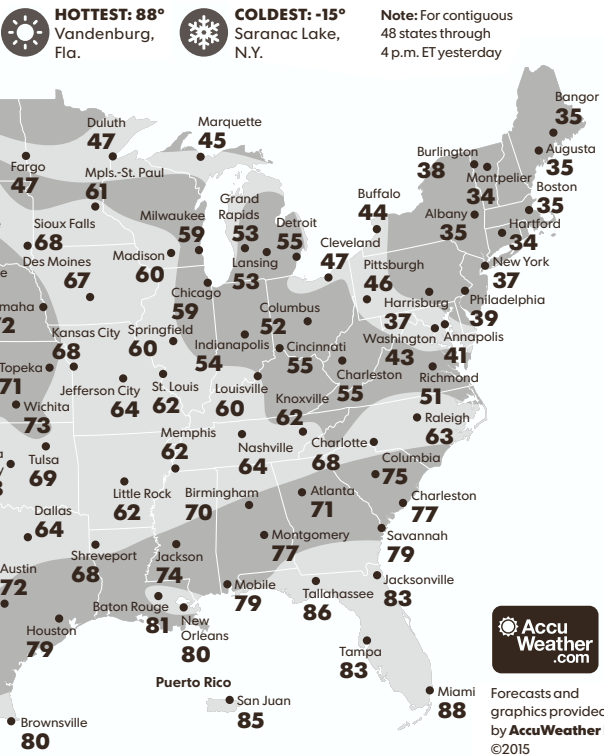


Sources AccuWeather, NOAA
Doyle Rice and Alejandro Gonzalez
@USATODAYWeather

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

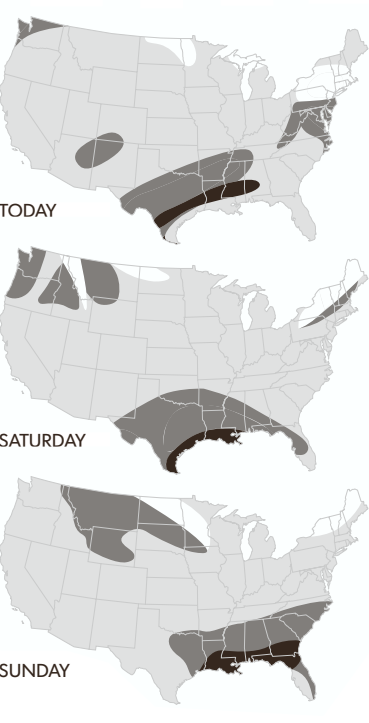


YESTERDAY'S EXTREMES



PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ○ Snow ● Ice/mix



TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index (AQI)

| ATLANTA | BALTIMORE | BOSTON | CHARLOTTE | CHICAGO | DALLAS | DENVER | DETROIT | HONOLULU | HOUSTON | LAS VEGAS | LOS ANGELES |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| FRI ☁ Warmer 71/53 | FRI ☁ Snow, rain 39/29 | FRI ☁ A little snow 35/26 | FRI ☁ Cloudy, warmer 68/45 | FRI ☁ Partly sunny 59/42 | FRI ☁ A few showers 64/56 | FRI ☁ Warmer 68/38 | FRI ☁ Clearing 55/41 | FRI ☁ Partly sunny 81/69 | FRI ☁ T-storms 79/64 | FRI ☁ Partly sunny 80/55 | FRI ☁ Partly sunny 77/59 |
| SAT ☁ Mostly cloudy 75/56 | SAT ☁ Warmer 55/37 | SAT ☁ A little snow 43/26 | SAT ☁ Some sun 72/50 | SAT ☁ Mostly sunny 52/31 | SAT ☁ Rain 63/54 | SAT ☁ Sunny, mild 73/44 | SAT ☁ An A.M. shower 57/27 | SAT ☁ Partly sunny 81/69 | SAT ☁ Rain 70/63 | SAT ☁ Sunny, warm 85/57 | SAT ☁ Mostly sunny 74/57 |
| SUN ☁ Rain 63/54 | SUN ☁ Cooler 50/30 | SUN ☁ Colder 37/19 | SUN ☁ Rain at times 68/45 | SUN ☁ Cooler 41/32 | SUN ☁ Shower 68/51 | SUN ☁ Mostly cloudy 70/41 | SUN ☁ Cooler 42/27 | SUN ☁ Partly sunny 82/69 | SUN ☁ Shower 77/55 | SUN ☁ Sunny, warm 84/56 | SUN ☁ Partly sunny 73/57 |
| AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Good | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Moderate | AQI Moderate |
| MIAMI | MPLS.-ST.-PAUL | NEW ORLEANS | NEW YORK | ORLANDO | PHILADELPHIA | PHOENIX | SALT LAKE CITY | SAN DIEGO | SAN FRANCISCO | SEATTLE | WASHINGTON |
| FRI ☁ Sunny 88/69 | FRI ☁ Mostly sunny 61/28 | FRI ☁ T-storms 80/65 | FRI ☁ Snow, 1-3" 37/31 | FRI ☁ Mostly sunny 88/66 | FRI ☁ Snow, 1-3" 39/32 | FRI ☁ Shower 80/61 | FRI ☁ Sunny, mild 69/45 | FRI ☁ Partly sunny 73/61 | FRI ☁ Partly sunny 67/55 | FRI ☁ Mostly cloudy 61/50 | FRI ☁ Rain, snow 43/35 |
| SAT ☁ Partly sunny 87/71 | SAT ☁ Sunny, cooler 44/27 | SAT ☁ T-storms 79/66 | SAT ☁ Milder 51/34 | SAT ☁ Partly sunny 88/68 | SAT ☁ Warmer 52/36 | SAT ☁ Partly sunny 86/62 | SAT ☁ Partly sunny 72/42 | SAT ☁ Mostly sunny 71/59 | SAT ☁ Partly sunny 68/54 | SAT ☁ Showers 57/40 | SAT ☁ Warmer 61/42 |
| SUN ☁ A P.M. shower 88/70 | SUN ☁ Cloudy 43/30 | SUN ☁ Rain 77/61 | SUN ☁ Cooler 44/28 | SUN ☁ Partly sunny 89/67 | SUN ☁ Cooler 46/28 | SUN ☁ Sunny, warm 88/62 | SUN ☁ Mostly cloudy 68/45 | SUN ☁ Mostly sunny 72/59 | SUN ☁ Mostly cloudy 67/56 | SUN ☁ Incr. clouds 62/47 | SUN ☁ Cooler 55/35 |
| AQI Good | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Good | AQI Moderate | AQI Good | AQI Good |

☁ Cloudy ☁ Fog ☁ Ice ☁ Rain ☁ Snowflurries ☁ Snow ☁ Windy ☁ Drizzle ☁ Haze ☁ Partly cloudy ☁ Sunny ☁ Showers ☁ Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES

| | TODAY | SAT |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Akron, Ohio | 49/39c | 58/27pc |
| Albany, N.Y. | 35/26sn | 48/24c |
| Albuquerque | 60/41sh | 69/41s |
| Allentown, Pa. | 34/29sn | 50/29pc |
| Amarillo, Texas | 63/39c | 71/43pc |
| Anaheim, Calif. | 79/56s | 76/54s |
| Anchorage, Alaska | 43/28s | 44/29s |
| Aspen, Colo. | 55/25s | 58/28pc |
| Atlantic City, N.J. | 41/33r | 48/36pc |
| Augusta, Ga. | 76/52c | 76/51pc |
| Austin, Texas | 72/59t | 66/56r |
| Bakersfield, Calif. | 85/53pc | 79/52s |
| Baton Rouge, La. | 81/64t | 80/65t |
| Billings, Mont. | 68/41pc | 71/42pc |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 70/51sh | 72/54c |
| Bismarck, N.D. | 60/25pc | 45/24c |
| Boise, Idaho | 72/49s | 66/39c |
| Buffalo, N.Y. | 44/34sn | 44/21sn |
| Burlington, Vt. | 38/26c | 43/14sn |
| Cedar Rapids, Iowa | 61/36s | 57/31s |
| Charleston, S.C. | 77/57c | 73/53pc |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 55/41r | 66/42pc |
| Cheyenne, Wyo. | 63/37s | 67/14cs |

| | TODAY | SAT |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Cincinnati | 55/39pc | 66/38pc |
| Cleveland | 47/38sn | 54/25pc |
| Colorado Springs | 61/34s | 68/39s |
| Columbia, S.C. | 75/54c | 75/54pc |
| Columbus, Ohio | 52/40pc | 63/33pc |
| Corpus Christi, Texas | 76/65t | 72/62t |
| Dayton, Ohio | 54/40pc | 64/34s |
| Daytona Beach, Fla. | 83/63s | 82/65pc |
| Des Moines, Iowa | 67/42s | 63/36s |
| Duluth, Minn. | 47/18pc | 59/24pc |
| Durham, N.C. | 62/40r | 66/47pc |
| El Paso, Texas | 70/47sh | 67/47sh |
| Fairbanks, Alaska | 38/9s | 34/9s |
| Flagstaff, Ariz. | 58/25s | 61/29s |
| Fargo, N.D. | 47/19pc | 37/22pc |
| Fort Myers, Fla. | 85/65s | 87/66s |
| Fort Smith, Ark. | 68/51pc | 70/50pc |
| Fort Wayne, Ind. | 52/39pc | 57/29pc |
| Fresno, Calif. | 83/53pc | 79/53pc |
| Grand Rapids, Mich. | 53/38pc | 49/24pc |
| Green Bay, Wis. | 58/34pc | 46/23pc |
| Greensboro, N.C. | 62/43c | 69/49pc |
| Greenville, S.C. | 71/48c | 73/53pc |
| Harrisburg, Pa. | 37/28sn | 54/32pc |

| | TODAY | SAT |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Hartford, Conn. | 34/27sn | 47/27c |
| Indianapolis | 54/40pc | 65/35s |
| Islip, N.Y. | 37/30sn | 43/32pc |
| Jackson, Miss. | 74/60sh | 71/58r |
| Jacksonville, Fla. | 83/61c | 80/62pc |
| Jefferson City, Mo. | 64/41pc | 74/44s |
| Kansas City | 68/43pc | 74/45s |
| Key West, Fla. | 82/72s | 81/74s |
| Knoxville, Tenn. | 62/44c | 66/48pc |
| Laredo, Texas | 75/63t | 72/57r |
| Lexington, Ky. | 56/39c | 65/43pc |
| Lincoln, Neb. | 72/36s | 73/39s |
| Little Rock, Ark. | 62/49r | 66/53r |
| Long Beach, Calif. | 77/59pc | 73/57pc |
| Louisville, Ky. | 60/42pc | 70/46pc |
| Lubbock, Texas | 62/41sh | 69/43c |
| Madison, Wis. | 60/35s | 53/26s |
| Manchester, N.H. | 63/23sn | 44/22sn |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 62/47r | 67/53r |
| Milwaukee | 59/39pc | 52/30s |
| Mobile, Ala. | 79/62t | 79/63r |
| Modesto, Calif. | 78/52s | 77/52pc |
| Montgomery, Ala. | 77/60sh | 79/62c |
| Myrtle Beach, S.C. | 71/54c | 65/52pc |

| | TODAY | SAT |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Nags Head, N.C. | 60/43r | 54/43pc |
| Nashville, Tenn. | 64/43c | 69/49pc |
| Newark, N.J. | 37/31sn | 50/34pc |
| New Haven, Conn. | 34/27sn | 42/28pc |
| Norfolk, Va. | 54/40r | 57/43pc |
| Oakland, Calif. | 68/52pc | 68/51pc |
| Oklahoma City | 68/50pc | 71/53pc |
| Omaha, Neb. | 72/39s | 69/37s |
| Palm Springs, Calif. | 89/61s | 90/60s |
| Pensacola, Fla. | 79/62sh | 79/63r |
| Pierre, S.D. | 72/30s | 57/29s |
| Pittsburgh | 46/39sn | 58/28pc |
| Portland, Maine | 36/25pc | 40/20sn |
| Portland, Ore. | 66/49c | 61/41sh |
| Providence, R.I. | 35/27sn | 44/28c |
| Raleigh, N.C. | 63/40r | 67/48pc |
| Rapid City, S.D. | 70/32pc | 69/32pc |
| Reno, Nev. | 72/43s | 68/40s |
| Richmond, Va. | 51/36r | 64/44pc |
| Rochester, N.Y. | 46/35sn | 47/23sn |
| Sacramento, Calif. | 75/50pc | 75/52s |
| San Antonio | 75/60t | 76/57r |
| San Jose, Calif. | 73/52pc | 72/52pc |
| Santa Fe, N.M. | 55/34sh | 65/34pc |

| | TODAY | SAT |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Sarasota, Fla. | 82/64s | 82/65s |
| Savannah, Ga. | 79/58c | 76/59pc |
| Scottsdale, Ariz. | 79/59pc | 83/60s |
| Shreveport, La. | 68/59sh | 63/59r |
| Sioux Falls, S.D. | 68/30s | 54/32s |
| South Bend, Ind. | 57/38pc | 52/28pc |
| Spokane, Wash. | 63/45pc | 55/32sh |
| Springfield, Mo. | 64/44pc | 72/47pc |
| Springfield, Ill. | 60/41pc | 67/37s |
| St. Louis | 62/45pc | 71/46s |
| St. Petersburg, Fla. | 83/66s | 84/67s |
| Syracuse, N.Y. | 37/28sn | 44/19sf |
| Tallahassee, Fla. | 86/62pc | 87/63c |
| Tampa, Fla. | 83/67s | 85/68s |
| Toledo, Ohio | 53/39pc | 58/26pc |
| Topeka, Kan. | 71/39pc | 77/43s |
| Tucson, Ariz. | 74/53pc | 79/53s |
| Tupelo, Miss. | 65/50sh | 68/53c |
| Tulsa, Okla. | 69/48pc | 74/51pc |
| Virginia Beach, Va. | 54/39r | 55/42pc |
| Wichita, Kan. | 73/41pc | 75/47s |
| Wichita, Del. | 39/30sn | 51/34pc |
| Winston-Salem, N.C. | 63/43c | 69/50pc |
| Worcester, Mass. | 32/25sn | 44/23c |

WORLD CITIES

| | TODAY | SAT |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Beijing | 66/38s | 65/38s |
| Buenos Aires | 89/56s | 71/54s |
| Cancun, Mexico | 86/72s | 87/69s |
| Dubai, UAE | 92/77c | 88/76c |
| Frankfurt | 59/37pc | 50/35sh |
| Hong Kong | 79/69pc | 79/68pc |
| Istanbul | 46/40c | 49/43r |
| Jerusalem | 55/40s | 57/40s |
| Johannesburg | 79/58s | 78/59c |
| London | 55/40pc | 49/34pc |
| Mexico City | 77/56pc | 76/48pc |
| Montreal | 38/29c | 39/10sf |
| Moscow | 49/32s | 45/28r |
| Mumbai, India | 98/81s | 99/83s |
| Paris | 60/38pc | 51/37sh |
| Rio de Janeiro | 87/74t | 87/74t |
| Rome | 61/45pc | 59/49sh |
| Seoul | 67/35c | 61/35s |
| Singapore | 90/77s | 91/77pc |
| Sydney | 83/68pc | 73/68c |
| Toronto | 45/35pc | 47/18sn |
| Tokyo | 58/48c | 53/44r |

OPINION

TODAY'S DEBATE PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTION

Our view

Secret Service needs more than a ‘good stern talk’

President Obama, according to his spokesman, still has confidence that his new Secret Service director is the “right person” to fix the troubled agency.

Well, the president sure has more patience than most people. A string of Secret Services lapses in recent years ended the career of the last director and led to 27-year agency veteran Joseph Clancy being named last month to drive changes.

But Clancy, in his debut before a congressional hearing Tuesday, came off more like a father trying to reprimand wayward children than a leader charged with fixing an outfit that holds the president's life in its hands. At a Senate hearing on Thursday, Clancy looked somewhat more in command, but he still had the same indefensible mess to defend.

The most appalling security lapse, in which a knife-wielding intruder scaled the White House fence last fall and ran deep into the executive mansion before being subdued, demonstrated the need for swift, decisive change.

Instead, early this month came reports that two senior agents, likely intoxicated but never tested, had driven into a White House barricade and through the scene of an investigation of a suspicious package.

Clancy testified that there was no crash, that the car was going very slowly and that it simply



Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy testifies on Capitol Hill.

nudged a barrier aside. But the public might never know the full story: One of the videotapes of the incident has been taped over, under a questionable policy to re-use tapes after 72 hours.

Clancy's lack of follow-up also raises questions about his command. For starters, no one told him about the latest incident until five days after it happened. He found out through an anonymous e-mail, not through the chain of command.

Now, two weeks later, he still doesn't have the facts, Clancy told lawmakers, because he is waiting

for the Homeland Security Department's inspector general to finish the investigation.

Clancy did allow that he had a “good stern talk” with aides about why he wasn't informed immediately. The two agents involved, including one on the president's protective detail, have been placed in desk jobs and are still being paid.

This latest incident and its handling echo some of the problems that have plagued the agency for years. The alleged heavy drinking is one. Another is fear of delivering bad news to superiors.

Then there's the lack of a fresh perspective at the agency's top. A special panel named by the Homeland Security secretary recommended that the next leader of the Secret Service come from outside the service because “only a director ... removed from organizational traditions and personal relationships will be able to do the honest top-to-bottom re-assessment this will require.”

Obama turned instead to Clancy, who urged lawmakers this week to fund an \$8 million project to build a replica of the White House complex outside Washington to train agents in a realistic environment. The idea might be good, but the timing isn't great.

What needs to be built right now is a Secret Service the public can respect and count on to protect the president and his family.

Opposing view

I'll put us back on the right track

Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy declined to write an opposing view. Excerpts from his Senate testimony Thursday:

As the newly appointed director, I am honored to lead the men and women of this important agency through this challenging time.

With respect to the allegations of employee misconduct on March 4, I personally became aware of the allegations on March 9. I determined that the allegations should be referred to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

I made this decision because allegations of misconduct involving employees at the GS-15 level and higher must be referred to the OIG. I have committed the Secret Service's full cooperation to the OIG.

The fact that I did not learn of this allegation until five days after it is said to have occurred is unacceptable. I'm very unhappy about it. I called my senior staff together last week and made clear my expectations for prompt notification of allegations of misconduct that could impact our mission or that violates the agency's standards of conduct.

If it is determined that any one of our employees con-

cealed information, they will be held accountable. Our mission is too important for this to happen. It undermines my leadership, and I won't stand for it.

Over the past several months I have made extensive personnel changes in senior leadership in an effort to bring about positive change. I will do what is necessary to put us back on the right track. And it starts with our people taking responsibility for their actions on-duty and off-duty.

I do not have the ability to simply terminate employees based solely on allegations of misconduct. The agency's ability to take action is controlled by the United States code, which provides government employees with certain statutory, due process rights. If the OIG investigation reveals misconduct, those involved will be punished.

I've also personally reviewed video surveillance from the evening of March 4. Based on the footage, previous reports of a crash are inaccurate — there was no crash.

While I am extremely concerned about the allegations of misconduct and the potential for alcohol involvement, I must reserve judgment on these matters until the OIG investigation is completed.

Conversation starters

DIGITAL OPINION
OPINION.USATODAY.COM
Excerpts of what our online commentators are saying:

INTEGRITY: WORTH THE PRICE
When I asked for a protective order against my then boyfriend, NASCAR racer Kurt Busch, I knew I would be put under a spotlight. Every woman who comes forward faces the same choice, wondering whether speaking out means her reputation will be damaged. But defending myself outweighs everything.

What happened to me on the night of Sept. 26 is public record. Busch never challenged the truth that he assaulted me.

When the Delaware attorney general declined to file criminal charges against Busch, despite a police recommendation, uninformed observers said nothing had happened and disparaged my motivations. Further attacks came when NASCAR lifted Busch's suspension.

High-profile cases of domestic assault are polarizing, held up as a teachable moment or a scam to be debunked. I've never asked for anyone to feel sorry for me. I'm just a mom who will not let my son grow up thinking it's ever OK to hit a woman.

Patricia Driscoll
CEO, Frontline Defense Systems
President, Armed Forces Foundation

BIBI AND 'BAMA AGAIN
On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party won a resounding victory. His strongest appeal was national security. Rising anti-Semitism, Iran's expansion, terror threats and deep distrust of President Obama reinforce that these are troubling times for Israel.

Netanyahu's speech to the U.S. Congress, denounced as a failed stunt, now seems like a successful gamble. He made a forceful case against Iran in Washington, a city Israelis distrust. Netanyahu also took aim at foreign governments allegedly engaged in a “Just Not Bibi” campaign. This was a veiled reference to the OneVoice Movement, a group with strong Obama administration ties.

The antipathy between the American and Israeli leaders runs deep, but they are stuck with each other for the rest of Obama's presidency. In 2012, Netanyahu sent congratulations to Obama the morning after his election victory. Obama seems in no hurry to return the courtesy.

James S. Robbins
Author

HILLARY'S E-MAIL FAIL

Can Clinton's presidential ambitions survive the latest scandal?



Cal Thomas is a conservative columnist. Bob Beckel is a liberal Democratic strategist. But as longtime friends, they can often find common ground on issues that lawmakers in Washington cannot.

Today: Politics plays rough

BOB: Hillary Clinton is in political trouble and perhaps even legal trouble over her use of private e-mail accounts and bypassing government-issued accounts containing substantial amounts of information that belongs to the federal government. But ultimately, I don't think this latest controversy will hurt her presidential ambitions.

CAL: Bob, that remains to be seen. A new Reuters/Ipsos poll shows that support for Hillary Clinton's candidacy among Democrats has fallen due to the e-mail scandal.

BOB: The poll also found, Cal, that 66% of Democrats said their opinion of Clinton has not changed.

CAL: True, but this is one of those scandals (and the Clintons have a lot of experience in this area) where new revelations surface every day. If author Ed Klein is to be believed, it was President Obama's top adviser, Valerie Jarrett, who ordered the State Department to investigate Hillary Clinton's e-mail trail.

BOB: The key words in that sentence are “if you believe Ed Klein,” a notorious right-winger and Clinton-hater.

CAL: You may not like his work, but I am not aware of many, if any, refutations of facts in his books. The State Department won't comment, referring all inquiries to the White House, which refuses to comment.

BOB: Since her early days as first lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton has been the favorite target of the right wing. Beginning with the Whitewater affair, she has been dogged by her politi-



YANA PASKOVA, GETTY IMAGES

The Irish America Hall of Fame inducts former secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday in New York City.

cal enemies who often take her words and report them out of context to make her appear as someone who ignores the law and covers up information.

CAL: Even James Carville, a staunch Clinton defender, said on ABC's *This Week* that she probably used a private server to avoid congressional oversight. That's quite an admission.

BOB: Carville is just speculating. The Obama administration policies were confusing about what e-mails were private and which were part of the government record. This is all about a Republican campaign to tarnish the Democratic front-runner.

CAL: She doesn't need help in the tarnishing department. *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, which are supportive of most Democrats, have carried stories recently quoting high-level party members questioning Clinton's tactics, if not her veracity. Some regard her behavior as part of a pattern involving both she and her husband going back many years. Democrats appear nervous about being forced to accept all the baggage both Clintons would bring to a 2016 presidential campaign.

BOB: I've been involved in five presidential campaigns, once as national campaign manager for Walter Mondale. When issues emerge that might harm a campaign, like the Clinton e-mails, you have to get all the facts out right away, but not before you have all the facts.

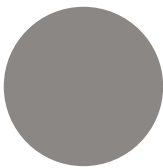
CAL: If this were her only issue, she might survive, but again, it's part of a pattern for both Clintons of coverup and obfuscation.

BOB: Republicans will use their new congressional majority to bring back Benghazi as an issue despite having had dozens of hearings on the subject, which produced no blemish on Hillary Clinton's performance as secretary of State. I am convinced that the public will recognize this is all about presidential politics by Republicans.

CAL: It is about presidential politics, but it is also more. A presidential candidate ought to be both credible and likeable. Hillary Clinton is neither. And the story line keeps changing. The latest is that her small staff reviewed all 55,000 e-mails on the server in her New York home and deemed half of them “private.” We have only their word, and that's not enough.

BOB: Before any future congressional hearing, Clinton should be prepared to say: “I have been asked about this issue at five hearings but if you insist, I will answer it again. After that, I respectfully suggest that Congress return to real problems facing the country.”

CAL: I agree there are more compelling issues, but when even Democrats are expressing concern how this might play in 2016, and with your party having a weak bench, Republicans are not going to go easy on her any more. That's politics, but politics sometimes uncovers the truth.



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Allen H. Neuharth,
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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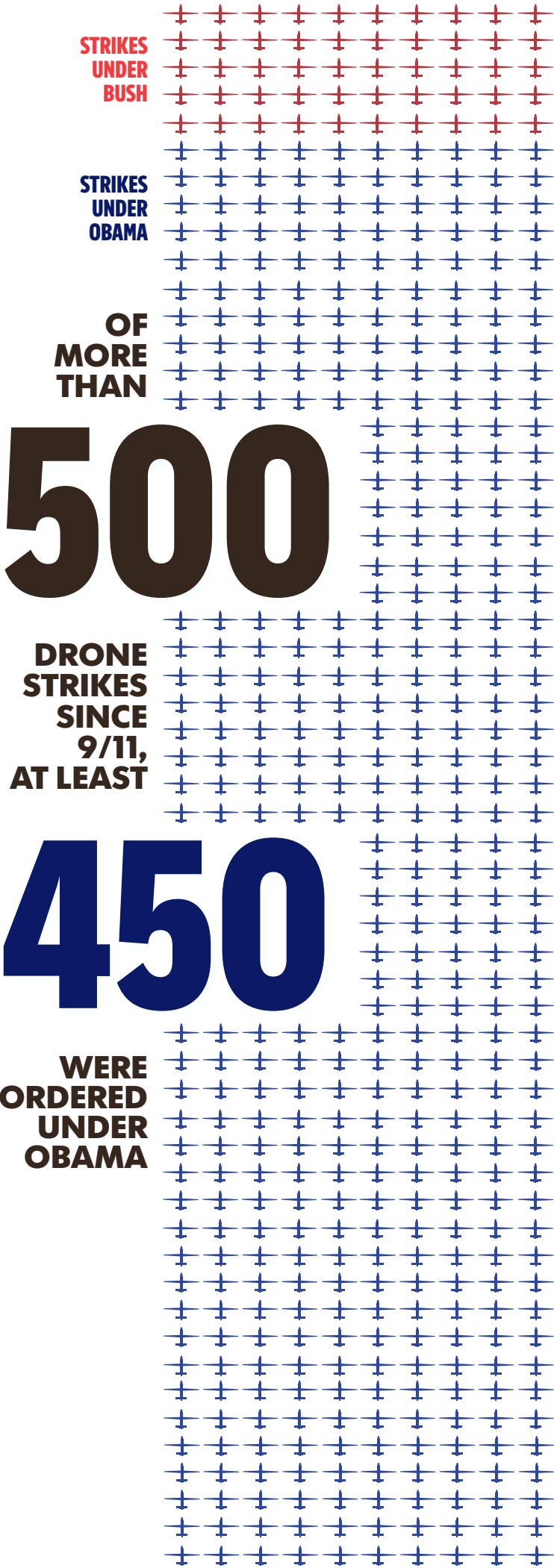
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Evan Ray

DRONE WARFARE



A Yemeni boy walks past a mural depicting a U.S. drone and the caption “Why did you kill my family?” Dec. 13, 2013, in the capital, Sanaa.

Attack of the killer drones



Obama opts for drone devastation against terrorists

Jim Michaels
USA TODAY

A drone strike that killed an alleged planner of a 2013 Kenyan mall massacre is the latest victory for a U.S. campaign that has taken out more than 500 suspected terrorist leaders since shortly after the 9/11 attacks.

Most have been drone strikes, the Obama administration's weapon of choice. It has authorized at least 450 attacks by unmanned aircraft. Wednesday, the Pentagon announced that Adan Garar, a member of al-Shabaab's intelligence and security wing, was killed in southwestern Somalia on March 12 as he traveled in a vehicle.

"None of this would have been imaginable 14 years ago," said Micah Zenko, an analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations. "Now these are not a big deal."

The reason is simple. The unmanned aircraft provide the administration an accurate way of striking enemies while minimizing risks for U.S. personnel. Drones can be controlled from American bases thousands of miles from the mountains of Pakistan or deserts of Yemen.

That is particularly attractive for an administration that wants to avoid committing ground troops in the Middle East but continues to battle extremists in far corners of the globe.

Outside the USA, the strikes have been controversial and triggered resentment. Critics of American foreign policy accuse the United States of killing innocent civilians in the strikes. Pakistan's government, which says it's an ally in the fight against global terrorism, has often been vocal in lashing out at the use of drone strikes in remote parts of the country.

"Everyone except Israel and the United States hates them (drone strikes)," Zenko said. "In some areas where operations occur, drones have become the face of U.S. policy."

Despite charges of civilian deaths, the weapons on the unmanned aircraft have become increasingly precise, and surveillance equipment has allowed operators to get a much clearer picture of what is happening on the ground.

Often the allegations of civilian casualties come from critics who want to whip up anti-American

TARGETS TAKEN OUT BY U.S. DRONE STRIKES

- 2009:** Sa'ad bin Laden, one of Osama bin Laden's sons who served as a senior al-Qaeda leader. Killed in Pakistan.
- August 2009:** Baitullah Mehsud, top Taliban leader. Killed in Pakistan.
- December 2009:** Abdullah Said al Libi, top commander of the Lashkar al Zil, al-Qaeda's shadow army. Killed in Pakistan.
- September 2010:** Sheik Fateh al Masri, a leader of al-Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Killed in Pakistan's tribal region.
- September 2011:** American-born militant Anwar al-Awlaki, a prominent al-Qaeda leader whose speeches helped recruit young men. He was involved in planning attacks. Killed in Yemen.
- September 2014:** Ahmed Abde Godane, leader of al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Africa. Killed in Somalia. His group was behind the attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, that killed 67 people in 2013.
- March 2015:** Adan Garar, suspected of helping to plan and carry out the Westgate Mall attack. Killed in Somalia.

Sources: The Long War Journal and USA TODAY research

sentiment, said Andrew Hunter, an analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Because the strikes are often in remote regions, it is difficult for journalists and human rights groups to investigate the allegations, he said.

Analysts say that as the unmanned aircraft become more precise, civilian leaders will be quicker to reach for that option, lowering the threshold for deciding whether to target a suspected militant.

The capability to strike from afar has produced the "illusion of antiseptic warfare," said James Phillips, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation. "On the receiving end, it gets very messy."

"Everyone except Israel and the United States hates them. In some areas ... drones have become the face of U.S. policy."

Micah Zenko, Council on Foreign Relations

A couple of decades ago, policymakers had few options for striking from a distance.

In 1998, when President Clinton wanted to retaliate against al-Qaeda terrorist bombings of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, he launched a barrage of 75 cruise missiles into militant bases in Afghanistan and struck a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan.

The strikes in Afghanistan damaged some training camps but did not eliminate any top leaders.

The pharmaceutical factory generated controversy because of disputes over whether it produced medicine or chemical weapons for al-Qaeda.

The strikes were widely viewed as ineffective, Phillips said.

The number of drones, which are more commonly used for surveillance, has expanded dramatically, driven by their success in providing critical intelligence to American ground forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

They see extensive action over Iraq and Syria, where the United States is conducting an air campaign against its latest terrorist threat, the Islamic State.

"The ability to know what you're shooting at – that's where things have come huge distance," Hunter said.



Brotherly bonds
‘Bloodline’ runs deep **5-6B**



EILEEN BLASS, USA TODAY

TEST DRIVE
New MDX not new enough



ACURA VIA WIECK

A remake would do it some good, **4B**

MONEYLINE

NOT A GREAT START



Apple dragged down the Dow Thursday on its first day in the famed average. Shares of Apple fell 97 cents, or about 0.8%, to

\$127.50 — adding pressure to the Dow Jones industrial average, which finished the day down 0.6%. But things would have been worse if Apple had not replaced AT&T in the Dow. AT&T closed down 1.2%.

FTC STAFF RECOMMENDED
SUING GOOGLE

Google came close to being sued by the Federal Trade Commission in 2012, according to a document obtained by 'The Wall Street Journal.' The previously undisclosed report by FTC staffers alleged the technology giant's conduct "has resulted — and will result — in real harm to consumers and to innovation" in the search market and that Google's actions resulted in "significant harm" to its competitors. The 19-month probe ended after Google agreed to make some voluntary changes.

NUMBER OF THE DAY:

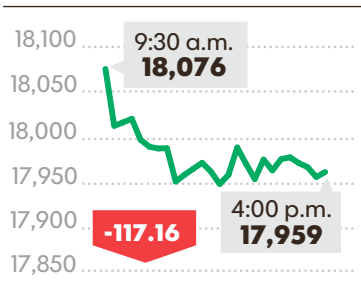
\$418 MILLION

Amount GoDaddy hopes to raise in its initial public offering, which the website host priced Thursday at \$17 to \$19 a share. The company, known for its Super Bowl ads with Danica Patrick, plans to offer 22 million shares in all, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

AFLAC CEO TAKES A PAY CUT

Contrary to popular belief, CEO compensation packages don't always rise. Aflac's Dan Amos saw a 50% tumble in his 2014 compensation, the insurer said Thursday in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Not that he has anything to cry foul about. Aflac valued his pay, stock award, incentive pay and perks at \$8.6 million, vs. \$17.2 million in 2013. Much of the drop was due to a sharp cut in the value of Amos' stock award. Aflac said it modified its compensation evaluation last year to better align Amos' pay with stock returns.

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVG.



THURSDAY MARKETS

| INDEX | CLOSE | CHG |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Nasdaq composite | 4992.38 | ▲ 9.55 |
| S&P 500 | 2089.27 | ▲ 10.23 |
| T-note, 10-year yield | 1.97% | ▲ 0.05 |
| Oil, light sweet crude | \$43.96 | ▲ 0.70 |
| Euro (dollars per euro) | \$1.0638 | ▼ 0.0106 |
| Yen per dollar | 120.96 | ▲ 0.27 |

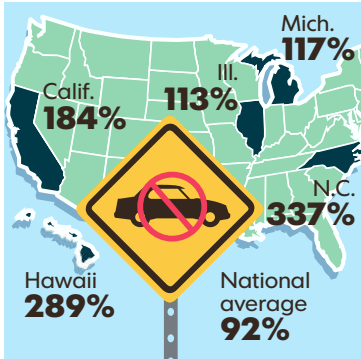
SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, MARKETWATCH.COM

► USA MARKETS, 3B

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Rate hikes after
DUI/DWI

States with the highest auto insurance premium increases in 2015:



Source: insuranceQuotes.com
JAE YANG AND MADELINE DEASON, USA TODAY

Amazon drones cleared to fly

FAA approves testing for Prime Air deliveries

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON The Federal Aviation Administration approved Amazon Logistics Inc. on Thursday to fly drones experimentally.

The approval will allow the company to conduct research, development and crew training for deliveries called Amazon Prime Air.

The approval allows the company to fly remote-controlled aircraft lower than 400 feet during daylight hours, and the pilot must have a private pilot's certificate. Other restrictions include keeping the aircraft within view of its pilot or a partner, called a "visual observer," and flying at least 500 feet away from people not associated with the experiments.



A drone carries an Amazon container in December 2013.

AMAZON VIA EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

While Amazon is the highest-profile company to get FAA approval to fly drones commercially, the agency granted 48 petitions through Friday, for purposes such as movie-making, smokestack inspection and aerial photography. But hundreds more applications are pending, as the industry urges faster regulatory action.

In 2012, Congress ordered the FAA to integrate drones into the skies with passenger planes by September 2015. Watchdogs have said the agency is unlikely to meet that deadline. The FAA proposal for small drones, which is

open for public comment now, is likely to take 18 months to two years to complete.

Amazon (AMZN) shares were flat in after-hours trading.

The approval was granted under an airworthiness certificate that requires Amazon to report monthly to the FAA. The reports must include the number of flights, a pilot duty time per flight, any malfunctions, deviation and instructions from air-traffic controllers and unintended loss of links between the aircraft and remote pilot.

Amazon ignited interest in the

commercial use of drones with a December 2013 story on *60 Minutes* about the prospects for drones to deliver products bought on its website. But the company has bristled at the slow development of FAA rules.

The FAA released a long-awaited proposal in February for rules governing remote-controlled aircraft weighing up to 55 pounds. But even that development required a pilot for each drone, which could hinder deliveries envisioned along automatic flying directions.

The approval Thursday allows Amazon to expand its research in coordination with the FAA.

"At Amazon, our energy comes from inventing on behalf of customers," the company's associate general counsel, Stephanie Burns, wrote last month in asking for FAA approval. "Amazon Prime Air, a new delivery system that will get packages to customers in 30 minutes or less using small aerial vehicles, is one invention we are incredibly passionate about."



JOE RAEDLE, GETTY IMAGES

DATA BREACH

TARGET DEAL A BUST FOR CONSUMERS

The data breach affected as many as 103 million people who shopped at Target between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15, 2013.

Most to get zilch from \$10M agreed to in settlement

Hadley Malcolm
and Elizabeth Weise
USA TODAY

Few Target data breach victims will likely get anything, and even fewer will get the maximum \$10,000 they're eligible for as part of a \$10 million settlement granted preliminary approval on Thursday.

The burden of proof of losses is on consumers, security experts say. Potentially more than 100 million customers were affected by the breach in November and December of 2013. Of those who

take the time to file a claim, many will likely get only \$50 to \$100, says Brian Yarbrough, consumer research analyst with Edward Jones.

So Target may end up paying out only a small portion of the \$10 million because that money pot is only available to "those consumers who can demonstrate loss," says Sasha Romanosky, an information security specialist with the RAND Corp.

The settlement says Target won't keep any portion of the money set aside for victims but it's unclear what would happen to any remaining settlement funds.

Generally, it's difficult for people to actually prove harm due to a breach, say Romanosky and Craig A. Newman, managing partner at law firm Richards

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Victims of Target's 2013 data breach will be eligible for up to \$10,000 each, but have to be able to show that they had at least one of the following:

- Unauthorized, unreimbursed charges on a credit or debit card
- Time addressing unauthorized charges
- Costs to hire someone to help correct a credit report
- Higher interest rate on an account or paid higher interest fees
- Loss of access or restricted access to funds
- Fees paid on accounts
- Credit-related costs such as credit monitoring or buying credit reports

Kibbe & Orbe.

When a fraudulent charge is made on a credit card, consumers don't generally end up paying for it. If the fraud is caught by the credit card company before it goes through, it never hits their card. If it does go through and the consumer reports it, it's almost always removed if it's reported within a reasonable amount of time.

If a consumer did have a fraudulent charge that they ended up paying, they would have to be able to provide paperwork showing that they'd documented that they hadn't made the charge and had tried to correct it, but failed.

"The law generally does not compensate consumers for their

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

Consequences of low rates: They're heeere

Federal Reserve's policies unleashed a whole set of new problems

John Waggoner

jwaggoner@usatoday.com
USA TODAY



INVESTING EVERY FRIDAY

Sometimes, life is filled with unintended consequences, like the time you bought an attractively priced house in a new subdivi-

sion. Sure, you got new appliances and a really great Jacuzzi in the master bathroom. But the house was built over an old cemetery, and the toaster shouted "Get out!" every time you entered the kitchen. Who knew?

The Federal Reserve has been dealing with a number of unintended consequences of its low interest rate policy, which was intended to goose the economy. And, while low rates have indeed kept the economy from a com-

plete disaster, they have unleashed a new series of unsettling consequences as well. If you're an investor, you need to look at the possibility that rates could remain low for a long time.

The Fed sent short-term interest rates to near zero in December 2008, and they have stayed there ever since. The decision was made in the wake of the collapse of Lehman Brothers, an investment bank.

One of the Fed's jobs is to be lender of last resort: That is, to make loans available when no-

Rate hikes on slow track

Fed remains on unhurried path, **2B**

body else will. Banks, investment banks, money market funds and many large corporations rely on overnight and other short-term loans to keep running.

When Lehman collapsed, you could have either called the Fed or called Ghostbusters: Nobody else was lending. Without the Fed's liquidity, banks, money funds and other businesses could have collapsed like dominoes.

By pushing rates to zero, the

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

BNY Mellon to pay \$714M fine

Settles claims of fraud, misrepresentation

Kevin McCoy
USA TODAY

NEW YORK Bank of New York Mellon on Thursday agreed to pay \$714 million to resolve federal and state allegations that it defrauded pension funds and other clients by misrepresenting how it handled their foreign exchange transactions.

The investment services and management company admitted it falsely told customers that it would provide them with the “best rates” available in a process



2011 AP PHOTO
Eric Schneiderman

designed to “maximize the proceeds of each trade” in the foreign currency exchange market, according to the U.S. Department of Justice and New York’s top legal official.

Instead, the Manhattan-based firm monitored rate fluctuations throughout trading days, and then assigned clients the worst or close-to-worst rates from trading sessions, investigators said.

At the same time, Bank of New York Mellon got more favorable

rates for its own foreign exchange trades and profited from the difference between those rates and the higher rates assigned to customers. The transactions in question were executed before early 2012.

“The Bank of New York Mellon’s custody clients, many of whom are public pension funds and non-profit organizations, trusted the bank to be honest about the financial services it was providing and to deal with them fairly,” said Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. “BNYM and its executives, motivated by out-sized profits and bonuses, breached this trust and repeatedly misled clients.”

The settlement “shows that in-

stitutions and individuals responsible for defrauding investors will be held accountable and face serious consequences for their wrongdoing,” said New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

The settlement covers allegations raised by both investigative agencies, as well as related actions by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Department of Labor, plus class-action lawsuits filed by private customers. Bank of New York Mellon said the agreement resolved substantially all of the foreign exchange-related actions pending against the company.

BNY Mellon closed down 1.3% at \$40.30 in Thursday trading.

How to weather Fed’s storm

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

Fed was flooding the nation with cheap money. Lower rates meant that businesses and homeowners could refinance their loans at much more favorable terms. If you reduce your mortgage payment by \$200, that’s money that goes directly into your wallet — and money you can use to spend on other things, like gas, home improvements and holy water.

In theory, that should have helped the economy. And it did, but not enough. The Fed then started buying long-term bonds and packages of mortgages to keep long-term interest rates low as well. The program, called quantitative easing, gave up the ghost in October.

By 2014, the economy began to look like it was improving, and it was. Gross domestic product shot up 5% in the third quarter and 2.2% in the fourth quarter. Everything seemed to be set for the Fed to start nudging interest rates once again.

But the Fed said Wednesday that an interest rate increase was out for April, and most analysts think September is more likely than June for the first hike. And even if the Fed does raise rates, it could be years until short-term rates return to normal levels. What happened?

One big part is that the economy is showing signs of sputtering. Retail sales and mortgage applications have been declining the past three months.

More important, the value of the dollar has been soaring. Money flows to countries with the highest interest rates. Right now, the U.S. 10-year Treasury note yields 1.97%. Compare that to Japan, where government 10-year bonds yield 0.33%, and Germany, where they return just 0.16%.

All other things being equal, raising U.S. rates would raise the value of the dollar vs. other currencies. “The Fed would have been wrong if it were blind to international repercussions of policy decisions,” says John Lonski, team managing director of the economics group at Moody’s Analytics. “The world is increasingly interconnected.”

One of the things a higher dollar does is make it more expensive for the rest of the world to buy oil, which is priced in dollars. While the U.S. has seen a steep decline in oil prices, the fall has been less dramatic elsewhere because of the increasing value of the dollar. High prices and a slack economy in Europe mean lower demand, which pushes oil prices down further. A higher dollar also hurts U.S. manufacturing, because it makes U.S. goods more expensive abroad.

Fortunately for the Fed, there’s no urgency in raising interest rates. Wages are still stagnant, and headline inflation — the number that includes food and energy — is deadlier than the cell-phone reception in the Paris catacombs. Consumer prices fell 0.1% the 12 months ended January, thanks to falling gas prices.

Here’s the thing: The people at the Fed aren’t dummies, and they’re having a hard time predicting the future course of the economy. It’s like a giant game of Whac-A-Mole: You push something down here, and something else pops up elsewhere.

The best bet for most people: Remain widely diversified. You’ll need cash in case you need to write a check. You need bonds because if the economy falters, we could be looking at Japan-style interest rates. And you need stocks because that’s where you’re most likely to get the highest returns over the long run.

And be brave. The law of unintended consequences also means that sometimes, good things happen when you least expect them.

Corrections & Clarifications
USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us, contact Standards Editor Brent Jones at 800-872-7073 or e-mail accuracy@usatoday.com. Please indicate whether you’re responding to content online or in the newspaper.

A story Monday about Charles Barkley’s absence on social media incorrectly described March Madness, which is the NCAA’s basketball tournament.

Fed goes slo-mo on rate hikes

‘Extraordinarily slow’ pace is expected

Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

The Federal Reserve is finally raising its starting pistol, but it’s likely to jog, not sprint, around the track.

The Fed signaled Wednesday that it’s poised to increase its near-zero benchmark interest rate within months, dropping a pledge to “be patient” as it considers pulling the trigger for the first time since 2006.

While the wording change was expected, economists were surprised by the leisurely pace of increases Fed policymakers are projecting, and some believe they’ll eventually be forced to shake a leg.

“The pace of the rate hikes (is) expected to remain extraordinarily slow by historical standards,” says Chief Economist Scott Anderson of Bank of the West.

Fed policymakers predict they’ll hoist the central bank’s federal funds rate from the current 0.125% up to 0.625% by year’s end and to 1.875% by the end of 2016, based on their median forecast. That’s a clip of a bit more than a percentage point a year, or about a quarter-point hike every other meeting. A similarly unhurried gait is projected for 2017.

By contrast, the Fed raised



Fed Chair Janet Yellen delivers her update Wednesday following the Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

H. DARR BEISER, USA TODAY

TAKING IT SLOW

How much the Fed’s benchmark short-term interest rate rose in the 12 months after it began past rate-hike cycles and the Fed’s latest projections for the end of 2015 and 2016. The Fed’s target range is now at 0% to 0.25%.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 FEB. 1994 3% FEB. 1995 6% Change: 3 percentage points | 1999 JUNE 1999 4.75% JUNE 2000 6.5% Change: 1.75 percentage points | 2004 JUNE 2004 1% JUNE 2005 3.25% Change: 2.25 percentage points | 2015 (Fed projections) DEC. 2015 0.625% DEC. 2016 1.875% Change: 1.25 percentage points |
|---|---|---|---|

SOURCE: FEDERAL RESERVE

rates at about twice that pace in hiking cycles in 1994, 1999 and 2004.

Typically, the Fed raises rates

to keep a lid on inflation in a surging economy and labor market, and lowers rates to spur activity and push down unemployment.

Tesla unveils new Model S updates

Automatic steering will be coming soon

Chris Woodyard
USA TODAY

Tesla Motors announced updates Thursday to its Model S electric car that it says will end “range anxiety” and could lead to an early self-driving system within a matter of months.

CEO Elon Musk said on a conference call with reporters that a software update soon will set routes for Tesla cars in ways that they are always close to the company’s “Superchargers,” a network of high-speed battery chargers situated along major highways for intercity travel, and let drivers know about their status. The car will keep track of the closest charging stations in real time, checking in with the system about every 30 seconds.

The car now will also warn drivers if they are going to drive outside the range of charging lo-



CEO Elon Musk of Tesla Motors says his company’s electric cars are getting some big updates.

JESSICA BRANDI LIFLAND FOR USA TODAY

cations. As a result, Musk says it will be “basically impossible” for the battery to run out of juice unless “you do so intentionally.” The goal, he says, is to end the anxiety about finding a place to recharge, one of the big deterrents to owning an electric car.

Also, he says, in as soon as three months, Model S sedans will receive an automatic steering feature that will basically allow them to drive themselves on ei-

ther open highways or on private property. The system is currently being tested on a route between San Francisco and Seattle, where test drivers are “almost able to travel the entire route without touching any controls at all.”

Tesla shares on Thursday closed down \$5.06, or 2.5%, at \$195.65.

Other automakers, such as Mercedes-Benz and Infiniti, offer similar systems now that allow

their luxury cars to drive themselves on the freeway. But they are far less sophisticated than systems under development by others, such as Google, that would be able to steer the car in any traffic, including stop-and-go urban environments.

Musk says Tesla’s system could potentially do more and is “technically capable of going from parking lot to parking lot.” But that higher level of self-driving ability won’t be enabled in the early version because, for the moment, he says it’s not safe in neighborhoods.

Musk says it is still being worked out whether the car will require drivers to turn the steering wheel now and then to make sure they haven’t fallen asleep behind the wheel.

Overall, he says Tesla is “making good progress” on the auto-steering feature.

But Tesla is throwing in a wrinkle: Musk says the car will soon also be able to automatically pull itself in or out of a garage using just its sensors, even in the dark.

Consumers unlikely to get much in deal

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

hassle,” Newman says. “In terms of being able to document that and say, ‘I as a consumer have suffered legal damages,’ that’s a very tough putt for a consumer.”

Target’s proposed settlement is relatively small compared with the breach-related losses Target has already suffered. Target spent \$191 million last year, primarily toward legal fees, the company has said.

“It’s minuscule for Target,” Yarbrough says. He points out that Target ended the fourth quarter with \$2.2 billion in cash on its balance sheet. “For Target, basically it’s nice just to get it over with. They have plenty to pay this

out.”

It’s also unlikely anyone will get anywhere near a \$10,000 payout, Yarbrough says.

“Your chances of that are pretty slim,” he says. “I would say probably \$50 to \$100 is probably what you’re going to get.”

The settlement, announced in court documents filed in Minnesota on Wednesday, also requires Target to pay up to \$6.75 million in legal fees to attorneys representing the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit originally constituted three class-action suits, two in California and one in Oregon, filed on behalf of card holders in December 2013. Eventually, about 140 lawsuits from card holders, banks and shareholders

were consolidated. The most recent settlement announcement pertains only to consumers.

Terms of the settlement were agreed upon March 9 and granted preliminary approval by a Minnesota judge Thursday.

Target also agrees to increase security through multiple initiatives. The retailer has to appoint a chief information security officer — Target named Brad Maiorino to the position last summer. His responsibilities include overseeing the company’s global information security and information technology risk organization.

Target also has to maintain a program that identifies internal and external security risks to shoppers’ personal information,

have a process for monitoring information security risks and give security training to employees.

Most, if not all, of those security steps were likely already in place after the breach occurred and aren’t particularly groundbreaking, Newman says.

The breach affected as many as 103 million people who shopped at Target between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15, 2013. The number of people who end up submitting claims will likely be slim though, Newman says.

“I suspect the number will be low,” he says. “The hassle factor cannot be understated. Realistically, what damages has a consumer suffered that the law is going to recognize?”

AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME.
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What to watch

Stocks and the magic of years ending in 5

Adam Shell
@adamshell
USA TODAY

If wild stock market gyrations can be caused by a single word like “patient,” why can’t the market be catapulted higher by a number? The number “5” to be more precise.

While the stock market ain’t witchcraft and there’s really no such thing as a sure thing on Wall Street, there has been one odd investment play that seems to work over and over and over again.

The wondrous winning trend in question has to do with years ending in “5.” And that’s a highly relevant statistic now, because this year just happens to be 2015!

“Since the S&P 500 began in the late 1920s, every year ending in ‘5’ has been positive,” the wondrous number-crunchers and

market-data aficionados at Bespoke Investment Group make clear in a revelatory research note titled, “Years Like 2015 And Other Patterns.”

In the eight years ending in “5” since 1935, the S&P 500 stock index has finished higher 100% of the time. And the average gains posted by the index are an eye-popping 25.3%. Even the two times the market got off to a losing start through late March — back in 1935 and 2005 — it still ended the year in the black, Bespoke data show.

Even after Thursday’s 0.5% drop, the index is up 1.5% in 2015.

So what explains this phenomenon? “It is hard to come up with any logical reason why years ending in five have been so strong,” Bespoke notes. But who wants to be a buzzkill? Years in ending in “5” is a market X-Factor — no matter how unexplainable.

DID YOU KNOW?

Facts about America’s investors who use SigFig tracking services:



Buy-and-hold SigFig portfolios (less than 10% turnover) **increased positions in Ford** earlier this month.

POWERED BY SIGFIG



More than half a million investors nationwide with total assets of \$200 billion manage their investment portfolios online with SigFig investment tracking service. Data on this page are based on SigFig analysis.

How we’re performing

USA’s portfolio allocation by foreign investment

Here’s how America’s individual investors are performing based on data from SigFig online investment tracking service:

| LESS THAN 20% U.S. INVESTMENTS | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 5-day avg.: | -0.09 |
| 6-month avg.: | -3.92 |
| Largest holding: | AAPL |
| Most bought: | AAPL |
| Most sold: | FB |

| 51% TO 80% U.S. INVESTMENTS | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 5-day avg.: | -0.81 |
| 6-month avg.: | -1.65 |
| Largest holding: | VMMXX |
| Most bought: | AAPL |
| Most sold: | KYTH |

NOTE: INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SIGFIG IS STATISTICAL IN NATURE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION OF ANY STRATEGY OR SECURITY. VISIT SIGFIG.USATODAY.COM/DISCLOSE FOR ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES AND INFORMATION.

| 21% TO 50% U.S. INVESTMENTS | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 5-day avg.: | -0.53 |
| 6-month avg.: | -6.01 |
| Largest holding: | VMMXX |
| Most bought: | NVGN |
| Most sold: | AAPL |

| MORE THAN 80% U.S. INVESTMENTS | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 5-day avg.: | -0.68 |
| 6-month avg.: | -2.44 |
| Largest holding: | AAPL |
| Most bought: | AAPL |
| Most sold: | AAPL |

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MAJOR INDEXES

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| DJIA -117.16 CHANGE: -.6% YTD: +135.96 YTD % CHG: +.8% | DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE CLOSE: 17,959.03 PREV. CLOSE: 18,076.19 RANGE: 17,934.24-18,072.99 | SPX -10.23 CHANGE: -.5% YTD: +30.37 YTD % CHG: +1.5% | S&P 500 STANDARD & POOR'S CLOSE: 2,089.27 PREV. CLOSE: 2,099.50 RANGE: 2,085.56-2,098.18 |
| COMP +9.55 CHANGE: +.2% YTD: +256.33 YTD % CHG: +5.4% | NASDAQ COMPOSITE CLOSE: 4,992.38 PREV. CLOSE: 4,982.83 RANGE: 4,979.94-5,000.02 | RUT +2.72 CHANGE: +.2% YTD: +50.17 YTD % CHG: +4.2% | RUSSELL RUSSELL 2000 INDEX CLOSE: 1,254.86 PREV. CLOSE: 1,252.14 RANGE: 1,248.48-1,254.89 |

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS/LOSERS

| GAINERS | Company (ticker symbol) | Price | \$ Chg | % Chg | YTD % Chg |
|---------|--|--------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| | Wynn Resorts (WYNN) Buy at Breaan expecting positive Macau. | 130.11 | +7.19 | +5.8 | -12.5 |
| | Urban Outfitters (URBN) Sales showing recovery and growth expected. | 46.70 | +1.60 | +3.5 | +32.9 |
| | Vertex Pharmaceuticals (VRTX) Kalydeco gets added approval from FDA. | 134.25 | +4.46 | +3.4 | +13.0 |
| | Delta Air Lines (DAL) Buying opportunity expected on results come out. | 47.26 | +1.45 | +3.2 | -3.9 |
| | Red Hat (RHT) Upgraded to positive at OTR ahead of earnings. | 69.18 | +2.11 | +3.1 | +1 |
| | Cerner (CERN) Raised to outperform vs. neutral at Robert Baird. | 73.82 | +2.18 | +3.0 | +14.2 |
| | Navient (NAVI) Hits month's high as bill to cut loan rate unveils. | 20.67 | +.61 | +3.0 | -4.3 |
| | Regeneron Pharmaceuticals (REGN) Continues uptrend after insider transactions. | 486.02 | +13.91 | +2.9 | +18.5 |
| | Skyworks Solution (SWKS) Pushed to lifetime high as smartphone demand rises. | 99.57 | +2.45 | +2.5 | +36.9 |
| | Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Introduces 42 new contracts; U.K. gas futures at record. | 236.71 | +5.24 | +2.3 | +7.9 |
| LOSERS | Company (ticker symbol) | Price | \$ Chg | % Chg | YTD % Chg |
| | Transocean (RIG) Dips pre-market as announces plan to scrap four rigs. | 14.16 | -1.09 | -7.1 | -22.7 |
| | Nucor (NUE) Cuts profit forecast after steel imports surge. | 46.10 | -3.17 | -6.4 | -6.0 |
| | Southwestern Energy (SWN) Rating cut to neutral at Sterne Agee & Leach. | 22.27 | -1.39 | -5.9 | -18.4 |
| | Denbury Resources (DNR) Nears March's low as oil dips. | 7.50 | -.45 | -5.7 | -7.7 |
| | Freeport-McMoRan (FCX) Halted production as roadblock enters fourth day. | 17.26 | -.97 | -5.3 | -26.1 |
| | Noble (NE) Hits 2015 low after Transocean rig scrap announcement. | 13.55 | -.76 | -5.3 | -18.2 |
| | Murphy Oil (MUR) Dips in weak sector as sells assets. | 46.82 | -2.47 | -5.0 | -7.3 |
| | Chesapeake Energy (CHK) Lowered to underperform at Sterne Agee & Leach. | 13.50 | -.63 | -4.5 | -31.0 |
| | EnSCO (ESV) Affected by Transocean, hangs near 2015 low. | 20.80 | -.90 | -4.1 | -30.6 |
| | Diamond Offshore Drilling (DO) Price target and estimates slashed at Evercore. | 27.00 | -.99 | -3.5 | -26.5 |

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STORY STOCKS

Price: \$127.50
Chg: -\$0.97
% chg: -0.8%
Day's high/low: \$129.25/\$127.40

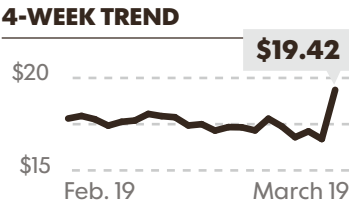
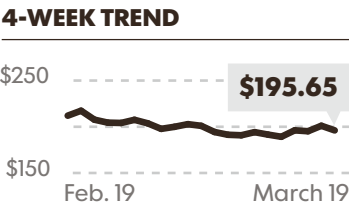
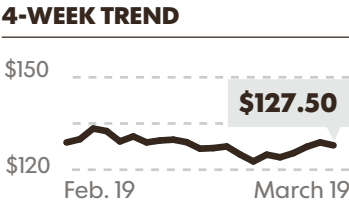
Price: \$195.65
Chg: -\$5.06
% chg: -2.5%
Day's high/low: \$204.59/\$194.53

Price: \$19.42
Chg: \$2.68
% chg: 16.0%
Day's high/low: \$19.63/\$18.00

Apple
Shares of the digital gadget maker failed to rally despite being added to the Dow Jones industrial average starting with trading Thursday. Apple replaced AT&T in the much-watched market measure.

Tesla
Elon Musk, CEO of the electric-car maker, announced a software update to the Tesla Model S that would make it easier to know when you're near charging stations and lead to a self-driving car.

Guess?
Shares of the apparel maker jumped after reporting an adjusted quarterly profit of 63 cents a share late Wednesday. The company is still challenged, but the results beat expectations by 11%.



TOP 10 MUTUAL FUNDS

| Fund, ranked by size | NAV | Chg. | 4wk ¹ | YTD ¹ |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Vanguard 500Adml | 193.57 | -0.94 | -0.2% | +1.9% |
| Vanguard TotStldx | 52.93 | -0.21 | +0.2% | +2.6% |
| Vanguard TotStAdm | 52.96 | -0.21 | +0.2% | +2.6% |
| Vanguard Instldxl | 192.32 | -0.94 | -0.2% | +1.9% |
| Vanguard TotStllns | 52.97 | -0.21 | +0.2% | +2.7% |
| Vanguard InstPlus | 192.34 | -0.94 | -0.2% | +1.9% |
| Fidelity Contra | 102.51 | +0.01 | +2.0% | +5.6% |
| American Funds GrthAmA m | 44.83 | -0.07 | +1.4% | +5.0% |
| American Funds IncAmerA m | 21.74 | -0.11 | -0.6% | +1.5% |
| PIMCO TotRetls | 10.85 | unch. | +1.1% | +2.1% |

1 - CAPITAL GAINS AND DIVIDENDS REINVESTED

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

| ETF, ranked by volume | Ticker | Close | Chg. | % Chg | %YTD |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| SPDR S&P 500 ETF Tr | SPY | 209.50 | -0.96 | -0.5% | +1.9% |
| CS VeiSh 3xLongCrude | UWTL | 1.94 | -0.26 | -11.8% | -60.3% |
| iShs Emerg Mkts | EEM | 39.49 | -0.68 | -1.7% | +0.5% |
| iShore Japan | EWJ | 12.61 | -0.14 | -1.1% | -12.2% |
| Barc iPath Vix ST | VXX | 26.13 | unch. | unch. | -17.1% |
| SPDR Financial | XLF | 24.47 | -0.23 | -0.9% | -1.1% |
| iShares Rus 2000 | IWM | 124.89 | +0.24 | +0.2% | +4.4% |
| CS VS 2x Vix ShTm | TVX | 1.79 | -0.04 | -2.2% | -35.1% |
| US Oil Fund LP | USO | 16.08 | -0.68 | -4.1% | -21.0% |
| Mkt Vect Gold Miners | GDX | 18.71 | -0.13 | -0.7% | +1.8% |

MORTGAGE RATES

| Type | Close | 6 mo ago |
|---------------|-------|----------|
| Prime lending | 3.25% | 3.25% |
| Federal funds | 0.11% | 0.09% |
| 3 mo. T-bill | 0.01% | 0.01% |
| 5 yr. T-note | 1.47% | 1.81% |
| 10 yr. T-note | 1.97% | 2.58% |

SOURCE: BANKRATE.COM

COMMODITIES

| Commodities | Close | Prev. | Chg. | % Chg. | % YTD |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Cattle (lb.) | 1.58 | 1.57 | +0.01 | +0.9% | -4.7% |
| Corn (bushel) | 3.74 | 3.75 | -0.01 | -0.3% | -5.9% |
| Gold (troy oz.) | 1,169.10 | 1,151.40 | +17.70 | +1.5% | -1.3% |
| Hogs, lean (lb.) | .58 | .61 | -0.03 | -4.3% | -28.4% |
| Natural Gas (Btu.) | 2.81 | 2.92 | -0.11 | -3.7% | -2.6% |
| Oil, heating (gal.) | 1.72 | 1.77 | -0.05 | -2.8% | -6.7% |
| Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.) | 43.96 | 44.66 | -0.70 | -1.6% | -17.5% |
| Silver (troy oz.) | 16.10 | 15.53 | +0.57 | +3.7% | +3.4% |
| Soybeans (bushel) | 9.62 | 9.65 | -0.03 | -0.3% | -5.6% |
| Wheat (bushel) | 5.12 | 5.11 | +0.01 | +0.2% | -13.2% |

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

| Currency per dollar | Close | Prev. | 6 mo. ago | Yr. ago |
|---------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| British pound | .6796 | .6728 | .6131 | .6049 |
| Canadian dollar | 1.2738 | 1.2671 | 1.0958 | 1.1236 |
| Chinese yuan | 6.1947 | 6.2263 | 6.1408 | 6.1939 |
| Euro | .9400 | .9308 | .7790 | .7231 |
| Japanese yen | 120.96 | 120.69 | 108.95 | 102.53 |
| Mexican peso | 15.3108 | 15.1985 | 13.2297 | 13.2521 |

FOREIGN MARKETS

| Country | Close | Prev. | Change | %Chg. | YTD % |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|
| Frankfurt | 11,899.40 | 11,922.77 | -23.37 | -0.2% | +21.4% |
| Hong Kong | 24,468.89 | 24,120.08 | +348.81 | +1.5% | +3.7% |
| Japan (Nikkei) | 19,476.56 | 19,544.48 | -67.92 | -0.4% | +11.6% |
| London | 6,962.32 | 6,945.20 | +17.12 | +0.3% | +6.0% |
| Mexico City | 44,118.17 | 44,360.87 | -242.70 | -0.6% | +2.3% |

SOURCES: MORNINGSTAR, DOW JONES INDEXES, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN-DEPTH MARKETS COVERAGE
USATODAY.COM/MONEY



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Smarter. Faster. More Colorful.



Updates help, but MDX remake is what's needed

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USA TODAY



TEST
DRIVE
EVERY
FRIDAY

Honda's Acura premium brand has brought admirable improvements to its respected MDX three-row SUV, the brand's best seller.

A new nine-speed automatic transmission shifts in dandy fashion, Acura apparently having avoided the not-quite-right tuning that has plagued Fiat Chrysler Automotive nine-speeds.

The console buttons to pick the right gear are easy to learn and use, and they open space in the area, as Acura notes. Hardly as satisfying as an old-school gear lever, but probably an overall benefit to most users.

The enhanced version of SH-AWD — Super-Handling All Wheel Drive — is a snow champ, delivering confident forward motion before any wheel slips, which some AWD systems require to trigger their best performance.

Additional features and models make it easier to pick the configuration you want. We especially like the one-button power tip/slide feature that opens access to the third row.

But the infotainment/connectivity setup remains cumbersome. To simplify, we wound up suction-cupping our aftermarket Garmin navigation/phone system onto the factory screen.

And, based on travel with three adults and four preteen boys, the machine's a tighter fit than its size would suggest. Nobody really



ACURA, VIA WIECK

2016 Acura MDX features a nice new nine-speed automatic transmission.

felt well-treated in the space department, complaints coming from every row.

Cargo space behind the third row isn't impressive, though you could argue that there are bigger SUVs available for those who value that attribute more.

It's easy and inviting to drive and classy enough to satisfy those addicted to premium machines.

Oddly enough, Test Drive found the MDX ride hard, beyond just firm. A new suspension system could perhaps be a culprit. We remember Acuras having a better blend of ride and handling than the tested MDX did.

And the vehicle's no better looking, still carrying vestiges of Acura's ill-advised, wedged-shaped, cowcatcher front end.

Mileage of the test vehicle was so-so. We registered 22.5 mpg in easy-going highway driving, and 14.5 mpg in short-hop, cold weather suburban driving.

If you think it takes electronic gadgets to drive safely these days — stay in your own lane, halt without bumping the car in front

that's made an unexpected stop, see cross-traffic behind you before you back up — MDX has 'em.

We wonder whatever hap-

pened to responsible, well-executed, even artful, driving by a human. But we accept a friend's argument that you can shut off some of the devices and retain control, while the bozos who can't drive well have electronic help.

Still, we worry about the pronouncement earlier this week at a California confab of Tesla boss Elon Musk:

"In the distant future, I think people may outlaw driving cars because it's too dangerous," Musk was quoted as saying by *Automo-*

tive News. "You can't have a person driving a 2-ton death machine."

That raised such a ruckus that Musk later clarified in a tweet: "To be clear, Tesla is strongly in favor of people being allowed to drive their cars and always will be. Hopefully, that is obvious."

That would have the effect of preventing lower-income folks from driving, because they couldn't afford the thousands of dollars that such self-driving suites add to a car's price. And it'll take awhile for such machines to trickle into the used-car market.

And it'll remove a source of great joy and satisfaction from the lives of at least some of us.

But that's hardly Acura's fault. Stepping back and regarding the MDX as an entire package, we'd say it's easy and inviting to drive, classy enough to satisfy those addicted to premium machines, high-tech enough to indulge that tendency in many of today's drivers.

Good choice for those who fit, can decode operation of the infotainment electronics and can spend \$43,000 to \$58,000.

2016 ACURA MDX DETAILS

► **What?** Update of Acura's best seller: Four-door, seven-passenger crossover SUV, featuring new nine-speed transmission, enhanced all-wheel drive, more available options, extended range of models.

► **When?** On sale since Feb. 4.

► **Where?** Made at Lincoln, Ala.

► **How much?** \$42,865, including \$920 shipping, to \$58,000.

► **What makes it go?** 3.5-liter V-6 rated 290 horsepower at 6,200 rpm, 267 pounds-feet of torque at 4,500 rpm, nine-speed automatic transmission. Available with FWD or AWD.

► **How big?** Similar to Infiniti QX60 (formerly JX35) outside, less legroom inside. MDX weighs 3,960 to 4,268 lbs. depending on model and equipment.

Cargo space, 14.8 cubic feet behind third row to 68.4 cu. ft. behind first row, second and third rows folded.

Turning circle diameter, 38.7 ft.

► **How thirsty?** Rated 18 to 20 mpg in the city, 26-27 highway, 21-23 combined, depending on model, equipment.

AWD test car registered 22.5 mpg (4.44 gallons per 100 miles) in easy-going highway driving, 14.5 mpg (6.9 gal./100 mi.) in cold-weather, short-hop suburban driving.

Premium recommended. Tank holds 19.5 gal.

► **Overall:** Classy, quick and nimble, tight fit inside, complicated infotainment/connectivity suite.

WHAT STANDS OUT

► **All-wheel drive:** Unusually sure-footed in snow

► **Smoothness:** Still a major attribute

► **Space:** Bit tighter than expected

Car of the future feels like a luxe living room

Mercedes makes non-driving a pleasure

Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

ALAMEDA, CALIF. Sitting inside the Mercedes-Benz F 015 Luxury in Motion self-driving car, the future is now.

Four of us face each other as the silver-skinned concept vehicle charts a preprogrammed zig-zagging course along an abandoned runway just across the bay from San Francisco.

The steering wheel is now at the driver's back. One passenger touches a button and a small coffee table levitates from the floor. Another taps a touch-screen door panel and commands the vehicle to drive in a more spirited fashion.

For 15 minutes, we talk, check our smartphones, listen to music and generally forget about the world outside. And that's the point, Mercedes engineers say. The automobile soon will cease to become just a car, and turn into a living space.

"It will become the third place you will spend time, after your office and your home," says Holger Hutzenlaub, a member of the company's Advanced Design team. "In the future, when cities will be bigger and the chaos greater, the greatest luxury goods will be privacy and time."

Hutzenlaub is part of a Mercedes team that has set up shop at the decommissioned Navy base here for the coming weeks. The automaker is inviting selected journalists to experience a ride in the F 015.

What's notable about the project is that it's not meant to showcase Mercedes' self-driving tech. Instead, it is a moving-in-car tech showcase meant to demonstrate the kind of cocoon we all might be riding in by perhaps 2030.

"The car has high-resolution screens in almost every interior panel, uses premium leather, wood and metal, and features eye-tracking and touch-control to minimize passenger effort," says

Hutzenlaub. "We're creating a personal retreat."

That is a stark contrast to Google's autonomous car project. The Google Self-Driving Car seats two passengers facing forward. There is no steering wheel and no pedals. A large bin in front of the occupants stores groceries and bags, since the idea is to hop in and out of the vehicles quickly so they can be on their autonomous way.

If Google is aiming more for a low-frills robotic taxi, Mercedes clearly is gunning for a pricey personal car. An animated video Mercedes screened underscored that point, showing a man summoning his car with a smart-watch, going to work, then picking up his wife and family.

Another big difference is that Mercedes engineers feel strongly that the leap to autonomous driving will be more easily accepted with vehicles that have the option of being driven manually.

"People will likely always love to drive, so the idea with the F 015 really is to use technology to

make traffic situations less stressful," says Mercedes future studies and ideation guru Alexander Mankowsky. For Mankowsky, the car of the coming decades will assist humans in reconnecting with each

other. "Cars like this one are simply machine intelligence that are making our lives easier."

The F 015 demo begins with our host, research specialist Klaus Millerferli, summoning the massive ovoid from its slumber with an app on his smartphone. The electric-powered car motors silently over to pick up its four guests using GPS sensors.

Just after it pulls up, we're encouraged to walk in front of the car. As we pass the nose, the car speaks: "Please go ahead." Engineers explain that a friendly interaction between an autonomous car and pedestrians will be critical to acceptance.

The seats, as well as the rest of the modernist interior, were dreamed up in Mercedes' design studio in northern Italy. One but-



MARCO DELLA CAVA, USA TODAY

ton makes the front two seats swivel backward. As the car gets underway, the feeling is of being in an escape pod of *Star Trek's* U.S.S. Enterprise.

The showstoppers are the ubiquitous screens, which encircle the passengers. They can be used to control the car's personality (you can switch between a leisurely and more aggressive drive); check on the whereabouts of friends along your route (you can one-touch call them or redirect the car to their location); and access music and video options.

The most highly touted use of the screens, however, was for projecting a series of video images that move according to the speed of the car. In other words, if you



CHRISTOPHER WIGGINS, SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

don't like what's outside your windows — in our case, a shipping dock — you can project a rolling hillside or palm-filled oasis.

The windows don't open. That leads to a slightly claustrophobic effect, especially when you're facing backward while the car drives forward. The fact that the prototype's AC system was having a hard time coping with the Cali-

fornia sun added to the unease.

Clearly, this multimillion-dollar prototype remains a work in progress.

"The F 015 is still a bit sensitive, being vulnerable to weather, especially rain or high temperatures," says Hutzenlaub. "All that said, we feel it is a highly realistic image of the future of human mobility."

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USA TODAY LIFE™



DONALD MIRALIE, GETTY IMAGES

LIFELINE

MAKING WAVES



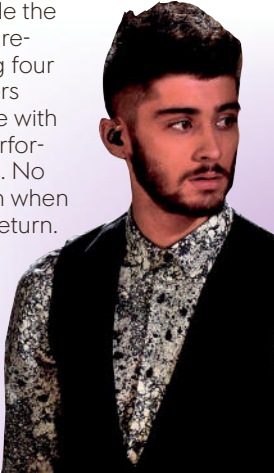
TARAJI P. HENSON BY CHUCK HODES, FOX

Fox’s ‘Empire’ keeps on growing. Wednesday’s two-hour season finale averaged a record 16.7 million viewers, according to Nielsen, up 12% from 14.9 million for last week’s one-hour episode. Among young adults, ‘Empire’ climbed 16% from last week, and through 12 hours, it now ranks as the top-rated network series among viewers ages 18 to 49, eclipsing CBS’ ‘The Big Bang Theory,’ with only original episodes counted. The show also won on social media: 4.2 million U.S. Facebook users generated 15.8 million likes, comments or shares, and fans posted 2.4 million tweets about the show.

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

BAD DAY ONE DIRECTION FANS

Zayn Malik has announced he’s taking a break from the band’s world tour. Citing stress, the singer has returned to his home in the U.K. while the group’s remaining four members continue with their performances. No word on when he will return.



KEVIN WINTER, GETTY IMAGES

ROYALS REPORT PRINCE MEETS PRESIDENT

Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla paid a visit to the White House Thursday, where they met with President Obama and Vice President Biden in the Oval Office. Their third day in the nation’s capital also included stops at President Lincoln’s Cottage — his summer home — in northwest Washington, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the Carlos Rosario International Charter School and the DC Department of Forensic Sciences.



CHRIS RADBURN, POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Compiled by Cindy Clark

USA SNAPSHOTS®

National Termite Awareness Week

Formosan “super” termites, found in Hawaii, California and most of the South, are one of the more damaging species.

Number of eggs Formosan termite queens can produce daily

1,000

Years it takes one Formosan colony to eat the structure of an entire home

2

Amount of property damage termites of all types cause annually

\$5 billion

Source National Pest Management Association

JOAN MURPHY AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY

TELEVISION

‘BLOODLINE’: THE FAMILY THAT STRAYS TOGETHER



EILEEN BLASS, USA TODAY

Donna Freydkin

USA TODAY

NEW YORK Take a dozen lead actors, submerge them in the sweltering, wet, mosquito-laden Florida Keys for eight months, and roll the cameras.

What you wind up with is *Bloodline*, the twisty 13-episode Netflix drama created by the team behind the knotty Glenn Close legal thriller *Damages*.

The series explores the Rayburns, a storied innkeeper family with secrets that reveal themselves in fits and starts and is headlined by Emmy winner Kyle Chandler (*Friday Night Lights*) and Australian actor Ben Mendelsohn, the black-sheep eldest son and the story’s catalyst. Chandler’s dutiful sheriff, John, is the pillar of his clan, and Mendelsohn’s slippery wastrel, Danny, slithers home for a reunion —

only to wind up passed out, drunk and naked on the dock. It all leads to someone in the family doing something very, very bad. What it is, and what it leads to, is at first murky.

“I don’t think Danny considers himself dangerous,” Mendelsohn says, adding that the show explores “the family roles we’re cast in by circumstance and the way that family works.”

For Chandler, “it’s almost like a coming-of-age story. He’s been taking care of people his whole life, and he starts to realize he does not have to do that,” he says.

“It’s fascinating to put a family together who all approach their own process so differently,” says co-creator Todd A. Kessler. But “both Kyle and Ben can convey sensitivity and empathy.”

The actors have an easy repartee over breakfast.

“We had a long time to get to know each other and feel free



SAEED AYANI, NETFLIX

“Both Kyle (Chandler, left) and Ben (Mendelsohn) can convey sensitivity and empathy,” co-creator Kessler says.

BLOODLINE NETFLIX, TODAY

Linda Cardellini doesn’t dish

‘I’m very good at keeping secrets,’ the actress says 6B

Netflix drama follows Rayburns’ twists and turns

enough to dislike something,” Mendelsohn says. “We had some pretty ugly scenes go down amongst us in the later periods.”

Ugly moments as characters, or actual people? Mendelsohn skates right past that question, but whichever, “I hope (they) fortify what we did.”

‘Insurgent’ should be much more diverting

Common sense is on the run here, too

“I know this doesn’t make any sense,” insists Shailene Woodley’s Tris at a key moment in *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*.

That sentiment pretty much sums up this listless sequel. Based on Veronica Roth’s series of YA novels, *Insurgent* feels cobbled together and less focused than 2014’s *Divergent*, and it lacks excitement.

Tris and Four (Theo James), the post-apocalyptic lovebirds, are fugitives from the confining social system that sorts citizens into five factions based on human virtues: Amity, Abnegation, Candor, Erudite and Dauntless.

They must hide out because they’ve been exposed as divergent, which means they don’t fit precisely into any one category. Divergents are seen by megalomaniacal leader Jeanine (Kate Winslet) as treacherous members



ANDREW COOPER, LIONSGATE

Four (Theo James) and Tris (Shailene Woodley) are fugitives from injustice, hiding from Jeanine and the Erudite group.

to be destroyed. But it’s clear she’s threatened by these advanced and liberated folks.

Pursued by the icy Jeanine, who is a staunch member of the Erudite group, Tris and Four barely elude her henchmen. Along their escape path, the couple endures a painful truth serum, a perilous train ride and plenty of chases and fights.

Tris is obsessed by thoughts that she’s dangerous because everyone around her dies. Her haunted mental state surely accounts for her grim expression. But everybody else looks miserable as well — even the kindly sorts who make up Amity, overseen by the ever-patient Johanna (Octavia Spencer).

Where other dystopian sci-fi

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT ★★☆☆

STARS Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Naomi Watts, Miles Teller, Kate Winslet, Octavia Spencer, Ansel Elgort, Maggie Q

DIRECTOR Robert Schwentke

RATING PG-13 for intense violence and action, some sensuality, thematic elements and brief language

RUNNING TIME 1 hour, 58 minutes

Opens today nationwide

movies are mired in exposition, this one could have used more explanation and logic. How does Tris’ brother, Caleb (Ansel Elgort), become a minion of the evil Jeanine overnight? And why? How can ambitious Peter (Miles Teller) work his way into Jeanine’s inner sanctum so quickly?

Woodley and James seem merely to be going through the motions. Their ultraseriousness, combined with lackluster performances, add up to a dreary experience for viewers.

TELEVISION

Cardellini geeks out on secrets

‘Hangability’ helped her land the gig on ‘Bloodline’

Donna Freydkin
@freydkin
USA TODAY

NEW YORK Imagine co-starring on two of television’s most talked-about shows and being able to say little to nothing about your experience.

Such is the case for Linda Cardellini.

In 2013, she bedded Don Draper on *Mad Men*, earning an Emmy nomination for her performance as sultry neighbor Sylvia Rosen, something the show’s famously secretive creator Matthew Weiner wouldn’t let her talk about until her arc was over.

“You can’t tell people what you’re working on and why you have red acrylic nails,” Cardellini says. “But I’m very good at keeping secrets.”

That serves her in good stead now that she’s the runt of the Rayburn family on the Netflix series *Bloodline* — and can barely reveal anything about her character, Meg.

“It’s hard to talk about something you can’t really expose. My mom’s like, ‘Can I know anything about what you’re doing?’ ” Cardellini says with a smile.

Here’s what we do know about Meg, the youngest of the four very different siblings at the heart of the twisty thriller (all 13 episodes are available today): “She believes she’s not a bad person, but she’s doing some things she shouldn’t be doing. She questions whether she’s a good person. I liked the idea of her being a mediator and trying to please everybody but not pleasing herself at all.”

Cardellini and her fiancé, Steven Rodriguez, packed up their daughter, Lilah-Rose, 2, and relocated to the Florida Keys for eight months to film the series, and she drew from her own background to play Meg.

“I’m a sister. I’m a daughter. I have brothers. I come from a big family,” Cardellini says. “I was the youngest. I loved my parents and didn’t cut the apron strings until really late.”

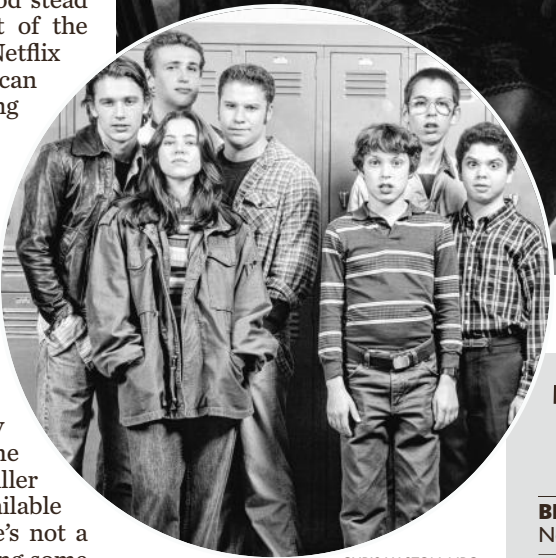
The actress, 39, who spent six seasons on *ER*, was first known as army-jacket-clad “mathlete” Lindsay Weir on the beloved (and short-lived) NBC teen drama *Freaks and Geeks*, which premiered in 1999 and also introduced James Franco and Seth Rogen. She’s still in touch with co-star Busy Philipps, and people come up to her to this day, professing their love for the series. And it’s the reason co-creator Todd A. Kessler cast her as Meg.

“Linda needed to hold her own and have a toughness, and she has something of a double life she’s not sharing with her family,” Kessler says. “It was an energy thing. She comes from a pretty fascinating family. Going back to



SAEED ADYANI, NETFLIX

Meg (Linda Cardellini, with Ben Mendelsohn as Danny) sees herself as a family mediator.



CHRIS HASTON, NBC

Cardellini got her break on *Freaks and Geeks* with James Franco and Seth Rogen.



MICHAEL YARISH, AMC

Cardellini was nominated for an Emmy for playing Don’s randy neighbor in *Mad Men*.

Freaks and Geeks, she has that hangability with the guys.”

Today, she’s sleepy after a late arrival from the West Coast, coupled with a 2 a.m. fire alarm that roused everyone in her hotel. But she’s good-natured and talkative, and she fully appreciates the oddly great trajectory of her career.

“It’s been really fun. ... I just did a comedy with Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg called *Daddy’s Home* — it’s been a lot of twists and turns,” she says. “It’s always a surprise to me, what ends up coming up. It’s been a wild ride.”

BLOODLINE
Netflix

★★☆☆
Today

Been there, not bingeing that.

Not that you have to binge-watch *Bloodline*, a 13-episode series from *Damages* creators Todd A. Kessler, Daniel Zelman and Glenn Kessler: Netflix doesn’t much care whether you view the episodes all at once or watch them a week at a time. But if you take your time, you’ll risk having the mystery at the show’s core spoiled by someone who didn’t.

What’s more, each time you finish an episode, you’ll still have to face that age-old television question of whether what you just saw has made you want to see more. Your mileage, interest and patience may vary, but after watching three hours Netflix made available for preview, my answer would be no.

The shame is that skipping *Bloodline* means missing out on an ensemble of strong actors, starting with *Friday Night Lights*’ Kyle Chandler as the story’s omniscient, incessant narrator, and including Sam Shepard, Sissy Spacek, Linda Cardellini, Norbert Leo Butz, Katie Finneran and Steven Pasquale. Unfortunately, they’re slogging their way through a

TV
PREVIEW
ROBERT
BIANCO



SAEED ADYANI, NETFLIX

Robert (Sam Shepard) and Sally (Sissy Spacek) head the secretive Rayburn family.

too-familiar family-in-crisis story that traps them in some dramatic no-man’s-land: too forced and melodramatic to feel as real as *Lights*, and yet too somber and portentous to be as entertaining as *Empire*.

As they did with *Damages*, the producers are telling their story largely in flashback. Before you even meet Danny Rayburn (Ben Mendelsohn), you know the pending arrival of this prodigal oldest son is bad news, because his younger, more responsible brother, John (Kyle Chandler), tells us so. “The voice in your head,” his narration intones, “is telling you something is going to go terri-

bly wrong, and there’s nothing you can do to stop it” — which is about where the voice in your head may be telling you: “Please. Stop.”

Danny’s arriving for a party thrown by his innkeeper parents (Spacek and Shepard), who are being honored for their work in their Florida Keys community. So friends and family gather, led by Danny, John (the sheriff), their lawyer sister, Meg (Cardellini), and their hotheaded youngest brother, Kevin (Butz).

And we’re off, for another one of those family pressure-cooker events where ties will fray and secrets will be revealed. And if you don’t think each of these characters has a secret, well then, *Bloodline* may be for you — because that means you’ve never seen any of the 10,000 other dramas it resembles.

There’s excellent work here, particularly from Spacek, Shepard and Chandler. But despite fine individual performances, the actors never collectively project a sense of family — the shared history, gestures and mannerisms that identify siblings. And if you don’t believe the family, or care what happens to them, why would you invest in their story?

For one episode, 13 episodes or anything in between.

Lessons from ‘The Heidi Chronicles’ still ring true

Elisabeth Moss shines as the title character in Broadway revival

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES ★★★★★
Starring Elisabeth Moss, Jason Biggs
The Music Box Theatre

NEW YORK Late in Act One of *The Heidi Chronicles*, the heroine gets a sobering tip from the ambitious narcissist she has been sleeping with, on and off, for nearly 10 years. Hers will be “a generation of disappointed women,” he tells her. “Interesting, exemplary, even sexy, but basically unhappy. The ones who open doors usually are.”

Heidi Holland is, you see, a Baby Boomer and an art historian whose yearning for sexual equality and social progress looms large in both her lectures and her personal life. Wendy Wasserstein’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play follows her for more than two decades, ending in 1989, the year the work originally premiered.

Twenty-six years later, in director Pam MacKinnon’s sensitive, impassioned production, Heidi’s struggles can still seem dishearteningly familiar.

In this first Broadway revival,

which opened Thursday, Heidi is played by Elisabeth Moss, best known as Peggy Olson on AMC’s *Mad Men*, a woman battling sexism just before the cultural revolution that marks Heidi’s coming of age. Moss brings the same empathy and accessibility to her new



JOAN MARCUS

Chronicles spans more than two decades in the life of Heidi (Elisabeth Moss, with Jason Biggs as Scoop).

role, along with an endearing goofiness and a slight neurotic edge that suits the character.

The excellent company MacKinnon has assembled reminds us that Wasserstein’s dialogue can be as funny as it is unsettling. Jason Biggs (*Orange Is the New Black*, *American Pie*) mines the arrogance of Scoop Rosenbaum, Heidi’s aforementioned flame and foil, with delicious wit.

As Heidi’s more reliable confidante, the deeply compassionate but sometimes caustic Peter Patrone, rising stage star Bryce Pinkham delivers the show’s breakout performance. We meet Peter as a precocious, awkward schoolboy who approaches the teenage Heidi at a dance and watch him become a young man bravely confronting his sexual identity, and then as a celebrated pediatrician grappling with the horrors of AIDS in the ’80s. Pinkham makes us laugh, breaks our hearts and lifts our spirits with his character’s courage and righteous indignation.

Seeing *Heidi* in 2015, it’s easy

to draw parallels between our time and the decade that brought us both HIV panic and go-go capitalism. As Heidi and her posse leave the idealism of the ’60s and the soul-searching of the ’70s behind for the ’80s in Act Two, even John Lee Beatty’s set design and Jessica Pabst’s costumes seem colder, coarser, more garish.

In one hilarious scene, Heidi, Scoop and Peter tape a segment for a vapid TV talk show. A producer lists their subjects, using reductive soundbites and advising them, “Our audiences like a little controversy with their coffee.” Scoop, now a successful magazine editor, cites his readers’ defining virtues, among them wealth and power. Sound anything like our corporate and media culture today?

Yet neither Wasserstein nor Heidi emerge as embittered by such trends. *Heidi* remains as appealing for its generosity of spirit as it is for its pluck.

(Myla Lerner, wife of USA TODAY publisher Larry Kramer, is a producer of the show.)

THEATER
REVIEW
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GARDNER

TRAVEL

DISPATCHES



ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

In summer, tourists flock to Saugatuck, Mich., near Lake Michigan.

Small towns make a splash

The winners of the 10Best Readers' Choice award for Best Coastal Small Town are in. Nominees in the contest, sponsored by USA TODAY and 10Best.com, were chosen by a panel of experts and then voted on by the public.

1. Saugatuck, Mich.
2. Ogunquit, Maine
3. Gulf Shores, Ala.
4. Rehoboth Beach, Del.
5. Rockport, Texas
6. Mystic, Conn.
7. St. Michaels, Md.
8. Chincoteague, Va.
9. Ocean Springs, Miss.
10. Duck, N.C.

CHIME IN

A new Readers' Choice contest category launched this week. Vote for best General Food Festival at 10best.com/awards/travel/.



ANDY NEWMAN, CCL

The Sunshine's itinerary includes a long list of Caribbean ports.

Carnival loves New York

Industry giant Carnival announced plans Monday for a new Caribbean itinerary out of New York that includes a stop in the Dominican Republic.

The eight-night sailings on the 3,006-passenger Carnival Sunshine kick off in summer 2016 and include a stop at Amber Cove, a new cruise port being developed in the Dominican Republic. The itinerary also includes stops at Grand Turk and Half Moon Cay, a private island in the Bahamas.

Carnival also revealed plans for a new nine-night itinerary out of New York that will feature stops in San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Maarten; St. Thomas; and Grand Turk.

The recently revamped Carnival Sunshine will be replacing the similar-size Carnival Splendor in New York for summer 2016.

Gene Sloan



PHILIPPE HUGUEN, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ryanair first must buy planes that can make the trans-Atlantic trip.

Ryanair and \$15 flights are coming

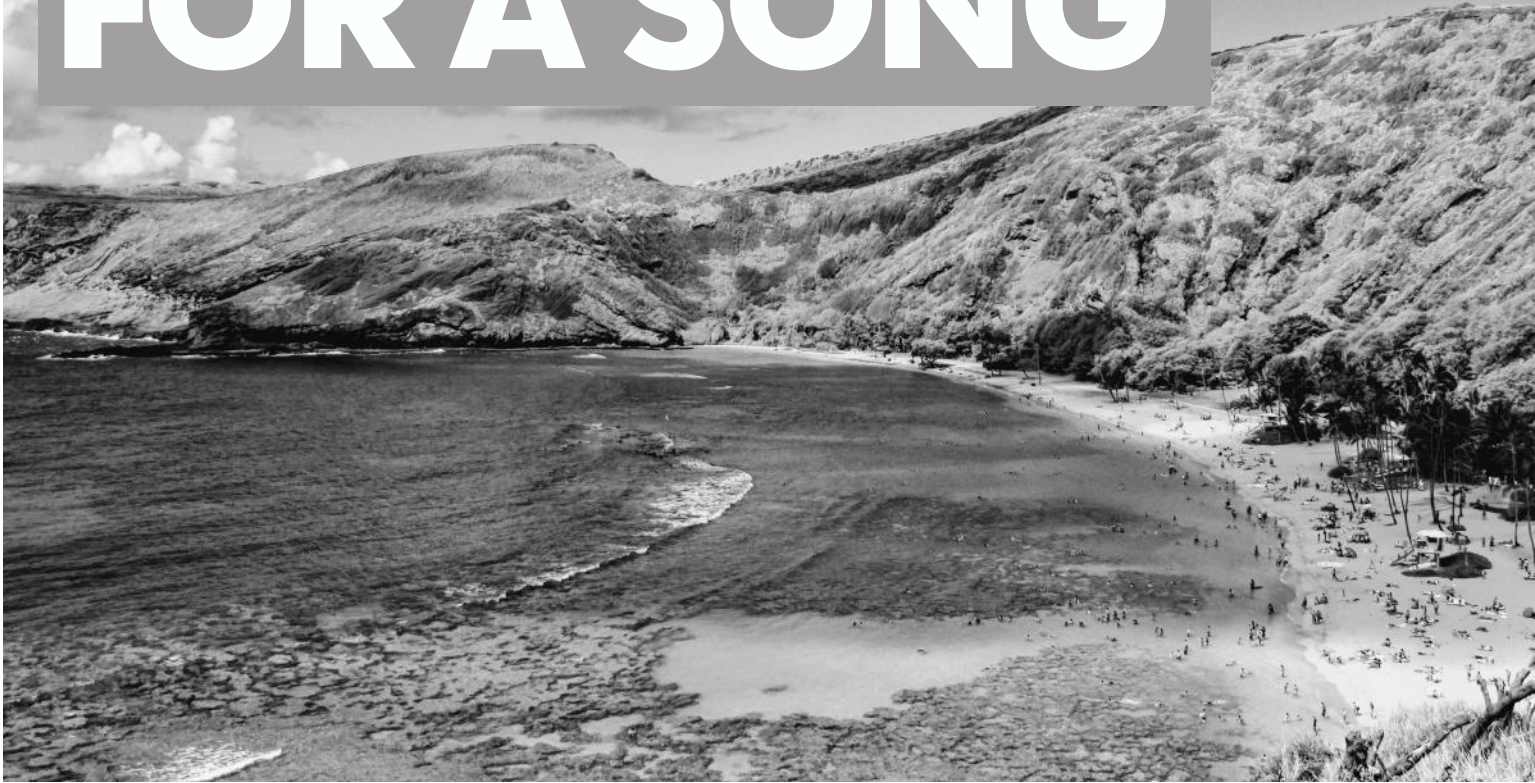
Europe's largest discount airline says it will begin flights to the USA and plans to sell its cheapest seats for less than \$15 each way. Ryanair's board this week approved the plan, which calls for the carrier to fly from Europe to as many as 14 U.S. cities.

The Irish airline, known for cheap fares and plentiful fees, flies to dozens of cities across Europe, frequently using secondary airports farther from the city center.

But bargain hunters will have to wait — Ryanair must first buy planes that can make the trans-Atlantic journey, a process that could take up to five years.

Ben Mutzabaugh

BUDGET HAWAII SEE OAHU FOR A SONG



PATRICK BAZ, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hanauma Bay on the island of Oahu was declared a protected marine life conservation area and underwater park in 1967.

By all means, do its gorgeous beaches. Then do them again. But Oahu is more than just its shoreline, and its riches are easy on the wallet

Ellen Creager

USA TODAY

HONOLULU

The beach is free. The silky aqua water costs nothing. And the sunshine doesn't cost a dime.

Yes, you can afford Hawaii, or dare to dream.

With airfares from the mainland to the Aloha State running near historical lows — less than \$800 round-trip from several U.S. cities to Honolulu now through June — Hawaii suddenly is a real possibility for more travelers.

In fact, at this very moment, I am sitting in Waikiki with a mimosa in my hands at a tiny outdoor hotel bar, looking out at swaying palm trees, the ocean waves, the stress of the long flight behind me, feeling drowsy, and ...

Oh, sorry. Where was I? Hawaii is so distracting.

What I was about to say is that your "someday" dream trip should definitely become a concrete plan, ASAP. And I would start with Oahu.

HONOLULU PRIMER

Oahu is the "beginnner's" Hawaii. It's the classic Hawaii you've seen on all the hula-swaying postcards, and its beaches are only 20 minutes from the Honolulu airport.

Honolulu's Waikiki shoreline is home to Duke Kahanamoku Beach, which Dr. Beach named 2014's best in the U.S. That's nice. That's fine. The beaches in Hawaii are all nice and fine.

But first-timers are cheating themselves if the beach is all they see.

In this culturally rich state, I am begging you to also experience things that you can't find back home in Florida or Michigan or Rhode Island. Such sights as Iolani Palace (\$14.75 admission), where the only royal family in what's now the U.S. once lived. Or the view from a hike on Diamond Head (free). See the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor (free). Or just drive around downtown or the neighborhoods and see how regular folks in Hawaii live.

Then go exploring beyond Honolulu on a stunning coastal drive. You really can't get lost. Or go wrong.

ALOHA 'OE

I based myself in Honolulu, renting a studio apartment through AirBnB for \$120 a night. My rental didn't have much of a view, but it had a fully stocked kitchen and was directly next to the trendy Modern Honolulu hotel (\$279) and Hilton Hawaiian Village (\$200). Best of all, it was two minutes from the beach.

If you stay in Honolulu, howev-



JEWEL SAMAD, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Waikiki Beach in Honolulu is a respite from the city, even on its more crowded days.

er, you soon will hear locals talking about big-city problems including homelessness, traffic jams and a half-finished transit system mired in red ink. That's all true. And yes, the median price for a house in Oahu is nearly \$700,000. Yes, a half-gallon of milk really does cost \$6.99.

It's amazing how many attractions are open to tourists and are cheap or free. Beyond the leis and luaus, there's a depth to this land.

► It costs only \$1 to park at Hanauma Bay (if you can find a parking spot), and an additional \$7.50 if you want to go down to the horseshoe-shaped perfect beach, where snorkelers are rewarded by sights such as flame angelfish and yellow tangs.

► Walk the sugar-sand public beach in Kailua, the place President Obama vacations (free).

► Stop at the Nuuanu Pali Lookout on the Pali Highway to see the sweeping view of windward Oahu and the Koolau Range (free). Also notable: The intriguing warning sign: "Beware of bees during high wind." Yikes.

It's amazing how many attractions are open to tourists and are cheap or free. Beyond the leis and luaus, there's depth to this land.

► Walk through Byodo-In Temple (\$3), a serene ode to the Byodoin temple in Japan.

► Take pictures in lush Kualoa, scene of so many films and television shows, including *Jurassic Park*, *The Hunger Games* and *Lost*. (State park is free; tours at Kualoa Ranch have fees).

► See what's new at the Polynesian Cultural Center (\$74.95 including demonstrations, exhibits and alcohol-free luau). Its new Hukilau Marketplace shopping area is free to wander.

► Watch the surfers on the incredible giant waves of the North Shore (free).

MUCH MAHALO, THANKS

What about eating and shopping? Oahu has, like the rest of the country, been swept away by the "grow local, shop local" food movements.

This is a good thing when you are 2,500 miles from anywhere.

Howe Restaurants here are a mix of trendy Hawaiian-Asian fusion (like Chai's Waikiki Cafe & Market), old standbys like Red Lobster, and food trucks serving garlic shrimp. In Hawaii, you can eat sushi off a conveyor belt. You can have a plate of "country tots" — tater tots with onions and cheese. Hawaii still has Spam. And plate lunches with enough carbs to kill a horse. So if your lodging has a kitchen, eat breakfast and lunch in the room to save money, then splurge on dinner.

Shopping? The stores in the tourist areas of Waikiki make me irritated. In the past 10 years, luxury chain stores have taken over. The scale is too large. Their focus is wealthy international tourists. To find souvenirs made in Hawaii, you'll have to elbow aside jostling crowds at Salvatore Ferragamo, Tiffany and Hermes.

Eventually, you will find quilts and quilted products made in Hawaii, Hawaiian coffee, macadamia nuts and Hawaiian shirts actually made on the islands. My big find was Olomana Orchids, a huge orchid nursery in Kaneohe that ships all over the USA.

Do your eating. Do your shopping. Do your sightseeing. Relax on the beach.

But there is no need to overexert yourself, or spend a fortune. Because I have a feeling you'll be coming back to Hawaii.

Ellen Creager is a travel reporter for the *Detroit Free Press*.



DONALD MIRALLE, GETTY IMAGES

Hanauma Bay, with its coral reefs, turtles and other sea creatures, is a snorkeler's paradise. Here, a school of manini fish.

Penn and ‘Gunman’ look sharp, but the aim’s off

Another middle-aged action star, another middling thriller

The only redeeming feature about *The Gunman* is its exotic locations.

Opening in the Congo and later zipping around London, Barcelona and Gibraltar, this lackluster tale of a reformed hitman has little else to offer.

Unless you're aching to see Sean Penn's impressively chiseled pecs and abs — which he shows off early and often — give this monotonous thriller a pass.

Apparently, Penn wants to reinvent himself as a buff, middle-aged action star, so he has teamed up with *Taken* director Pierre Morel, who successfully reinvented the career of Liam Neeson.

But the question is why. A versatile dramatic actor, Penn also has proven himself a top-notch filmmaker. His nimble direction of 2007's *Into the Wild* was breathtaking. So do fiftysomething serious actors harbor a burning desire to star in inane, violent action films?

If so, it's about as effective in reversing the sands of time.



Sean Penn is Jim Terrier, a reformed assassin who finds himself on the wrong side of the hit list.

Given Penn's well-known politics and the story's opening in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2006, *Gunman* initially appears to be a fairly intriguing look at corporate exploitation of the region. But *The Constant Gardener* this is not. That intricate 2005 thriller exposed corruption as it unspooled a complex mystery.

This aims for *Bourne* territory, but doesn't come close to that exciting, deftly made spy saga.

Penn stars as Jim Terrier, an assassin responsible for a key political hit in the Congo. He also has a romance going with Annie (Jasmine Trinca). His murderous attack requires him to leave the country immediately, so he asks his colleague Felix (Javier Bardem) to keep an eye out for Annie.

Guilt propels him to return to Africa — in the present day — and this time help the locals. He also

finds time for some gnarly surfing. (His *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* character, Spicoli, would have approved.)

But when Jim's life is endangered out on the grassland, he flies back to London to find out why he's a target.

The dialogue is clichéd. "I did some bad things," Jim says, and somehow we're supposed to feel for this cold-hearted killer.

It turns out Felix has taken

THE GUNMAN ★★☆☆

STARS Sean Penn, Javier Bardem, Jasmine Trinca, Ray Winstone, Idris Elba
DIRECTOR Pierre Morel
RATING R for strong violence, language and some sexuality
RUNNING TIME 1 hour, 55 minutes
Opens today nationwide

Jim's request very seriously. He has married Annie and they live in Barcelona. Jim heads there ostensibly to gather information. He hasn't been in touch with his old flame for years, but when they lay eyes on each other, they instantly, passionately reconnect. It helps that the handsome Felix is inexplicably nasty to his wife and has been jealous of Jim all these years. Usually a compelling actor, Bardem is over-the-top in a one-dimensional role.

The macho action tropes — car chases, shoot-outs — don't mesh well with the would-be love story. It's hard for audiences to become invested given that Jim's character is so unsympathetic and Annie is a cardboard cutout.

A bullfight is the backdrop for what is meant to be an exciting climax, but sympathy for the bulls will be greater than for the reformed devil played by Penn.

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WEEKEND TV

Saturday

| | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|-------------------------|------------|
| NETWORK | | | | | | | | |
| ABC | Secrets and Lies. (TV14) | | In an Instant. (N) (HD) (TV14) | | | | Local news. | |
| CBS | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Teams TBA. | | | | 48 Hours. (N) (TVPG) | | Local news. | |
| Fox | Backstrom. (TV14) | | Sleepy Hollow. (TV14) | | Local news and pro | | Animation Domination. | |
| NBC | Fast Five. (PG-13) (AL, AS, V) | | | | | | | |
| PBS | Local news. | | | | | | | |
| ION | Criminal Minds. (TV14) | | C.M: Suspect. | | C.M: Suspect. | | The Listener. (TV14) | |
| Telemundo | Transporter 3. With Jason Statham. (2008) | | | | Fútbol Mexicano Primera División | | | |
| Univision | Sábado Gigante. (N) (TVPG) | | | | | | P. Luche. | Noticiero. |
| CABLE | | | | | | | | |
| A&E | Married at First Sight. (TV14) | | | | Wahlburg. | Wahlburg. | Wahlburg. | Wahlburg. |
| ABC Family | Mermaid. Sleeping Beauty. (Starts 8:45) (1959) (G) | | | | Cinderella. (1 hr. 14 mins.) (1950) (G) | | | |
| AMC | National Lampoon's Vacation. (1983) | | | | National Lampoon's European Vacation. (1985) | | | |
| Animal Planet | Pit Bulls and Parolees. | | Pit Bulls and Parolees. | | Pit Bulls and Parolees. | | Pit Bulls and Parolees. | |
| BBC America | Star Trek: Next. | | The Musketeers. (TV14) | | Graham Norton Show. | | Doctor Who. (TVPG) | |
| BET | Madre. | Obsessed. With Idris Elba. (2009) | | | The Fighting Temptations. (2003) | | | |
| Bravo | Forgetting Sarah Marshall. With Jason Segel. (2008) | | | | Forgetting Sarah Marshall. (2008) | | | |
| Cartoon | Dragon. | | One Piece. King of Hill. Boondocks. | | Amer. Dad. Amer. Dad. | | Family Guy. | |
| CMT | Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1 hr. 26 mins.) (1994) | | | | Cops Rel. | | Cops Rel. | |
| Comedy | Employee. Hot Tub Time Machine. with Rob Corddry. (2010) | | | | Hot Tub Time Machine. (Starts 10:45) | | | |
| Discovery | Fast N' Loud. (TV14) | | Fast N' Loud. (TV14) | | Fast N' Loud. (TV14) | | Fast N' Loud. (TV14) | |
| Disney | K.C. | K.C. | K.C. | K.C. | Lab Rats. | Kickin' It. | Liv/Maddie. | Dog. |
| DisXD | Gravity. Wander. | | Ninja. Ultimate. | | Avengers. Hulk. | | Wander. Wander. | |
| E! | The Royals. (TV14) | | Kardashian. | | Sex and the City. with Kim Cattrall. (2008) | | | |
| Food | Chopped. (TVG) | | Chopped. (TVG) | | Chopped. (TVG) | | Chopped. (TVG) | |
| FX | This Is 40. (2012) (R) (AL, AS) | | | | Backstrom. (TV14) | | | |
| FX | Rise of the Guardians. (PG) (AS) | | | | Rise of the Guardians. (PG) (AS) | | | |
| GSN | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | Idiotest. (TVPG) | | Idiotest. (TVPG) | |
| Hallmark | Good Witch. (N) (TVPG) | | The Chateau Meroux. with Taylor Negron. (2011) | | | | Good Witch. (TVPG) | |
| HGTV | Property Brothers. (TVG) | | Property Brothers. (TVG) | | House Hunters Reno. | | Hunters. | Hunt Intl. |
| History | Pawn. | Pawn. | Pawn. | Pawn. | Pawn. | Pawn. | Pawn. | Pawn. |
| ID | Deadly Sins. (TV14) | | Deadly Sins. (N) (TV14) | | Scorned: Love Kills. (N) | | Deadly Sins. (TV14) | |
| IFC | Inglourious Basterds. With Brad Pitt, Mélanie Laurent. (2009) | | | | | | | |
| Lifetime | Stalked by My Neighbor. (2015) (NR) | | | | Nanny Cam. (Starts 10:02) (2014) (NR) | | | |
| MTV | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | |
| Nat. Geo. | Alaska State Troopers. | | Wicked Tuna. (TV14) | | Wicked Tuna. (TV14) | | Wicked Tuna. (TV14) | |
| Nick | Henry. | Nicky. | Bella. | Thunder. | Prince. | Prince. | Friends. | Friends. |
| OWN | Sweetie Pie's. | | Sweetie Pie's. | | 2 Fat 2 Fly. (N) (TVPG) | | Sweetie Pie's. | |
| Oxygen | Down Erth. Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself. (1 hr. 53 mins.) (2009) | | | | I Can Do Bad. | | | |
| Science | Acts of Science. | | Acts of Science. | | What Could Go Wrong? | | Acts of Science. | |
| Spike | Cops. | Cops. | Cops. | Cops. | Cops. | Cops. | Con Air. (1997) | |
| Sundance | The Sentinel. (2006) | | The Fugitive. (1993) (PG-13) (AS, V) | | | | Next 3. | |
| Syfy | Zathura. (From 7:00) | | Jumanji. (PG) (AL, V) | | | | Robin Hood. (2010) | |
| TBS | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament. | | | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Teams TBA. (N) (Live) | | | |
| TCM | Now, Voyager. With Bette Davis. (1942) (NR) | | | | Lydia. With Merle Oberon. (1941) (NR) | | | |
| TLC | 19 Kids. | 19 Kids. | 19 Kids. | 19 Kids. | 19 Kids. | 19 Kids. | 19 Kids and Counting. | |
| TNT | NCAA. | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament. | | Teams TBA. (N) (Live) | | The Dark Knight. (2008) | |
| Travel | Ghost Adventures. | | Ghost Adventures. (N) | | The Dead Files. (TVPG) | | The Dead Files. (TVPG) | |
| TruTV | Jokers. | Jokers. | Jokers. | Jokers. | Carbonaro. Carbonaro. | | Carbonaro. Carbonaro. | |
| TV Land | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | Raymond. | Raymond. | King. | King. | King. | King. |
| USA | NCIS. (TV14) | | NCIS. (TV14) | | NCIS. (TVPG) | | No Strings Attached. | |
| VH1 | What's Your Number? With Anna Faris. (2011) | | | | Walk/Sh. | | Barely. | Mob Wives. |
| WE | Law & Order. (TV14) | | Law & Order. (TV14) | | Law & Order. (TV14) | | Law & Order. (TV14) | |
| WGN America | Blue Bloods. (TV14) | | | | Blue Bloods. (TV14) | | | |
| | | | | | Casino Royale. With Daniel Craig. (2006) | | | |
| MOVIE NETWORKS | | | | | | | | |
| Cinemax | Nutty Professor II: The Klumps. (Starts 8:10) (2000) | | | | Wedding Crashers. With Owen Wilson. (2005) | | | |
| Encore | The World Is Not Enough. (1999) | | | | Demolition Man. (Starts 10:10) (1993) | | | |
| HBO | A Million Ways to Die in the West. (2014) | | | | Sarah Silverman: We. | | Girls. | Looking. |
| Lifetime Movie | The Haunting Of... | | The Haunting Of... (N) | | My Haunted House. (N) | | Intervention. (TV14) | |
| Showtime | Kill Bill: Vol. 2. With Uma Thurman. (2004) | | | | Premature. (2014) | | | |
| Starz | Black Sails. (TVMA) | | Black Sails. (TVMA) | | Black Sails. (TVMA) | | Black Sails. (TVMA) | |
| TMC | Failure to Launch. (2006) | | | | Exorcismus. (2010) | | | |
| | | | | | An American Werewolf in London. | | | |
| SPORTS NETWORKS | | | | | | | | |
| ESPN | College Wrestling: NCAA Championships, Finals. (N) (Live) | | | | SportsCenter. (N) (Live) | | | |
| ESPN2 | Basketball. Update. | | Women's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament | | | | 2014 CrossFit Games | |
| ESPNU | College Baseball: Vanderbilt at Auburn. From Plainsman Park in Auburn, Ala. | | | | SportsCenterU. (N) (Live) | | | |
| FS1 | Motorcycle Racing. | | | | UFC Fight Night: UFC: Maia vs. LaFlare. (N) (Live) | | | |
| Golf | LPGA Tour Golf. | | Golf Central. (N) (Live) | | PGA Tour Golf. | | | |
| NBA | NBA GameTime The latest NBA news and highlights from around the league. | | | | | | | |
| NBCSports | College Hockey. | | | NHL Top 10. | Red Bull Series. | | Match of the Day. | |
| NFLN | A Football Life. | | A Football Life. | | Top 10. | | NFL Total Access. | |

MOVIES

Eastern Time may vary in some cities.

(N) New episode.
(HD) High-definition where available.

Ratings

TVY Children of all ages
TV7 Children over 7
TVG All audience
TVPG Parental guidance suggested
TV14 Inappropriate for under 14

TVMA

Mature Audience
FV Fantasy Violence
V Violence
S Sexual situations
L Coarse language
D Suggestive dialogue

Sunday

| | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| NETWORK | | | | | | | | |
| ABC | Once Upon a Time. (N) | | Secrets and Lies. (TV14) | | Revenge. (N) (TVPG) | | Local news. | |
| CBS | Madam Secretary. (N) | | The Good Wife. (TV14) | | Battle Creek. (N) (TVPG) | | Local news. | |
| Fox | Family Guy. (TV14) | | The Last Man on Earth. | | Local news and programming. | | | |
| NBC | The Voice. (TVPG) | | Dateline NBC. A woman works to free her husband. | | | | Local news. | |
| PBS | Drama. | Drama. | Masterpiece Classic. (HD) (TVPG) | | | Local news. | | |
| ION | Ghost Whisperer. | | Ghost Whisperer. | | Ghost Whisperer. | | Ghost Whisperer. | |
| Telemundo | La Voz Kids. (N) | | | | Suelta La Sopa Extra. | | Titulares. | Videos. |
| Univision | Nuestra Belleza Latina. (N) | | | | Sal y Pimienta. | | P. Luche. | Noticiero. |
| CABLE | | | | | | | | |
| A&E | Intervention. | | Intervention. (TV14) | | Neighbors W/Benefits. | | Neighbors W/Benefits. | |
| ABC Family | Sleeping. | Cinderella. | (1 hr. 14 mins.) (1950) (G) | | Pocahontas. (Starts 10:15) (1995) (G) | | | |
| AMC | The Walking Dead. | | The Walking Dead. (N) | | Talking Dead. (N) (TV14) | | The Walking Dead. | |
| Animal Planet | North Woods Law. (N) | | North Woods Law. | | Rocky Bounty Hunters. | | North Woods Law. | |
| BBC America | Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. With Kevin Costner. (1991) | | | | Real History. | | | |
| BET | The Fighting Temptations. (2003) (PG-13) (AS) | | | | Being Mary Jane. | | Keyshia. | |
| Bravo | Real Housewives/Atl. | | Matchmaker. | | Fashion. | Happens. | Real Housewives/Atl. | |
| Cartoon | Oblongs. | King of Hill. | King of Hill. | Burgers. | Burgers. | Family Guy. | Family Guy. | China, IL. |
| CMT | The Parent Trap. With Lindsay Lohan. (1998) (PG) (AS) | | | | Cops Rel. | | Cops Rel. | |
| Comedy | South Park. | | South Park. | South Park. | South Park. | South Park. | South Park. | |
| Discovery | Alaskan Bush People. | | Alaskan Bush People: Revisited. (TV14) | | | Alaskan Bush People. | | |
| Disney | Liv/Maddie. | Liv/Maddie. | I Didn't. | Liv/Maddie. | Jessie. | Dog. | Girl Meets. | Liv/Maddie. |
| DisXD | Gravity. | Penn Zero. | Ninja. | Ultimate. | Avengers. | Hulk. | Wander. | Wander. |
| E! | Kardashian. | | Kardashian. | | The Royals. (N) (TV14) | | Kardashian. | |
| Food | Guy's Grocery Games. | | All-Star Academy. (TVG) | | Cutthroat Kitchen. (TVG) | | Cutthroat Kitchen. (TVG) | |
| FX | Just Go with It. With Adam Sandler. (1 hr. 55 mins.) (2011) | | | | Just Go with It. (2011) | | | |
| FX | 2012. (From 7:00) With John Cusack. (2009) | | | | 2012. With John Cusack. (2009) | | | |
| GSN | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | FamFeud. | Baggage. | Baggage. |
| Hallmark | Second Chances. (TVG) | | Chance at Romance. (1 hr. 30 mins.) (2013) (TVG) | | | Gold Girls. Gold Girls. | | |
| HGTV | Lakefront. | Lakefront. | Caribbean. | | Caribbean. | Island Life. | Island Life. | Hunters. |
| History | Ax Men. (TVPG) | | Ax Men. (N) (TVPG) | | Appalachian Outlaws. | | American Pickers. | |
| ID | Dateline on ID. (TV14) | | Unusual Suspects. (N) | | On the Case, Zahn. | | Dateline on ID. (TV14) | |
| IFC | Lara Croft Tomb Raider. | | Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life. (2003) | | | | | Eraser. |
| Lifetime | Watch Your Back. (2015) | | The Good Mistress. (2014) (NR) (TV14) | | | Watch Your Back. (2015) | | |
| MTV | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | | Teen Mom. (TVPG) | |
| Nat. Geo. | Wicked Tuna. (TV14) | | Wicked Tuna. (N) (TV14) | | Ultimate Survival | | Wicked Tuna. (TV14) | |
| Nick | Full House. Full House. | | Full House. Full House. | | Prince. | Prince. | Friends. | |
| OWN | Oprah: Where Now? | | Oprah: Where Now? | | Oprah: Where Now? | | Oprah: Where Now? | |
| Oxygen | Snapped. (TVPG) | | Snapped. (N) (TVPG) | | Snapped. (TVPG) | | Snapped. (TVPG) | |
| Science | MythBusters. (TVPG) | | MythBusters. (TVPG) | | MythBusters. (TVPG) | | MythBusters. (TVPG) | |
| Spike | Bar Rescue. (TVPG) | | Bar Rescue. (N) (TVPG) | | Coaching Bad. (N) (TV14) | | Bar Rescue. (TVPG) | |
| Sundance | Outbreak. (From 5:00) (1995) | | Misery. | | Misery. With James Caan. (1990) | | | |
| Syfy | Jumanji. (From 7:00) | | The Last Airbender. With Noah Ringer. (2010) | | | The Fifth Element. | | |
| TBS | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament. | | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament. | | | Teams TBA. (N) (Live) | |
| TCM | Irma La Douce. With Shirley MacLaine. (1963) (NR) | | | | Fanny. (NR) (AS) | | | |
| TLC | Medium. | Medium. | Medium. | Medium. | Who Do You. | | Medium. | Medium. |
| TNT | NCAA. | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament. | | | Teams TBA. (N) (Live) | | The Express. (2008) | |
| Travel | No Reservation. | | Breaking Borders. (N) | | Breaking Borders. | | No Reservations. (TVPG) | |
| TruTV | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament. | | Teams TBA. | | Jokers. | | Jokers. | |
| TV Land | Gold Girls. Gold Girls. | | Raymond. Raymond. | | King. | King. | King. | King. |
| USA | Law & Order: SVU. | | Law & Order: SVU. | | Law & Order: SVU. | | Mod Fam. | Mod Fam. |
| VH1 | Selena. (From 7:00) (2 hrs. 7 mins.) (1997) | | | | Walk/Sh. | Barely. | Mob Wives. (TV14) | |
| WE | CSI: Miami. (TV14) | | CSI: Miami. (TV14) | | CSI: Miami. (TV14) | | CSI: Miami. (TV14) | |
| WGN America | Casino Royale. (From 7:00) with Eva Green. (2006) | | | | Outlaw Country. (HD) | | Salem. (HD) (TVMA) | |
| MOVIE NETWORKS | | | | | | | | |
| Cinemax | Timecop. | | The Purge. (2013) | | The Purge: Anarchy. (2014) | | | Sin City. |
| Encore | Dr. No. (PG) (AS, V) | | | | Point Break. (Starts 9:50) (1991) | | | |
| HBO | Million Ways. | | Girls. | VICE. | Looking. | Girls. | Last Week. | Looking. |
| Lifetime Movie | Beautiful & Twisted. (2015) (NR) (TV14) | | | | The Returned. (TV14) | | The Returned. (TV14) | |
| Showtime | Episodes. | | Lies. | | Shameless. (N) | | Lies. | |
| Starz | Black Sails. (TVMA) | | Black Sails. (TVMA) | | Sex Tape. (Starts 10:05) (2014) | | | Black Sails. |
| TMC | Yours, Mine & Ours. | | Last Vegas. With Michael Douglas. (2013) | | | The Canyons. (2013) | | |
| SPORTS NETWORKS | | | | | | | | |
| ESPN | Wm. Basketball. | | Women's College Basketball. | | | SportsCenter. (N) (Live) | | |
| ESPN2 | Wm. Basketball. | | Women's College Basketball. | | | ESPN FC. (N) | | |
| ESPNU | College Basketball. | | 30 for 30. | | | SportsCenterU. (N) (Live) | | |
| FS1 | MLS Soccer: Fire at Earthquakes. | | | Garbage. | | NASCAR. | NASCAR. | Fox Sports Live. (N) |
| Golf | LPGA Tour Golf. | | Golf Central. (N) (Live) | | PGA Tour Golf. | | | |
| NBA | NBA GameTime The latest NBA news and highlights from around the league. (N) | | | | | | | |
| NBCSports | NHL Hockey: Ducks at Rangers. | | | | NHL. | Sports Report. | | Premier. |
| NFLN | NFL Veteran Combine. | | Caught in the Draft. | | Caught in the Draft. | | Top 10. | |

Doc (Joaquin Phoenix) is a P.I. with a scruffy edge in *Inherent Vice*.
WILSON WEBB, WARNER BROS. PICTURES



NEW ON:
MOVIES
ON DEMAND
ON CABLE

Inherent Vice (2014)
A 1970s private detective (Joaquin Phoenix) investigates the disappearance of a former flame.

Tracers (2015)
A New York bike messenger (Taylor Lautner) relies on parkour to outrun the Chinese Mob.

Also available this week
Top Five with Chris Rock; **Annie** with Quvenzhané Wallis; **The Cobbler** with Adam Sandler

WEB TO WATCH

Compiled by Daniel Hurwitz

ALL ONLINE TV
WEBTOWATCH.USATODAY.COM

OUR TOP PICKS



Say goodbye to Peggy (Elisabeth Moss) Don (Jon Hamm) and Harry (Rich Sommer).

NETFLIX JOINS ‘MAD MEN’ FAREWELL
Netflix helps say goodbye to the landmark show. The AMC series will start airing the final seven episodes beginning April 5 at 10 p.m. ET. But on Sunday, Netflix adds the first half of Season 7 to its library, making every previously aired episode of the series available. (Also, original series *Bloodline* is out today, 5B)
netflix.com



‘EMPIRE’ REBUILDS ON HULU
Now that Season 1 of Fox’s hit has come to an end, the Lyons have found a new home on Hulu. Hulu has acquired exclusive subscription video on-demand (SVOD) rights to the one-hour drama. Hulu Plus subscribers can stream all episodes of the series, which wrapped its first season Wednesday night.
hulu.com/empire



Paper Towns Trailer
Channel: 20th Century Fox on YouTube
John Green, author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, has another young-adult novel headed for the big screen. The movie, starring Cara Delevingne and Nat Wolff, arrives in theaters July 24.
youtube.com/FoxMovies



Raiders of the Lost Ark’s Boulder — Art of the Scene
Channel: CineFix
An in-depth look at the iconic boulder scene that introduces the world to Mr. Indiana Jones.
youtube.com/cinefix

TONIGHT ON TV

CRITIC'S CORNER

Robert Bianco
@BiancoRobert
USA TODAY

GLEE FOX, FRIDAY, 8 ET/PT
This once-popular musical ends its run with a two-hour special. The first hour flashes back to pre-gee-club days to show us where the characters began; the second flashes forward to show us where they end up. The show, of course, was much better when it was simpler and less gimmick-dependent, but those days can't be recovered, even in a flashback.



Will (Matthew Morrison) and Sue (Jane Lynch) say farewell to *Glee*.

THE GOOD WIFE CBS, SUNDAY, 9 ET/PT
The election rages on, which means another visit from the always welcome David Hyde Pierce and another chance for viewers to ponder whether they want Alicia to win or not. But the even-better news for fans of Christine Baranski as Diane — and really, how can't you be? — is that Diane gets a meaty story this week as she goes with her husband (Gary Cole) on a week-end hunting trip to woo a client. And if you're wondering whether Diane can hunt: Of course she can. She's Diane.



Kurt (Gary Cole) and Diane (Christine Baranski) do a little hunting.

GIRLS/LOOKING HBO, SUNDAY, 9 ET/PT
These two series air their season finales Sunday as *Girls* deals with Adam's sister Caroline's home-birthing plan and *Looking* pushes Patrick to reassess what he wants in a boyfriend. Their exits clear the way for what is by far HBO's most popular program, *Game of Thrones*, but not quite yet. You get two weeks of specials before the *Game* begins on April 12.

| | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 | |
|---------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|-------------------|
| NETWORK | | | | | | | | | |
| ABC | Last Man Standing. (N) (HD) | Cristela. (N) (HD) | Shark Tank. Hometown T-shirt. (N) (HD) | | 20/20. (N) (HD) | | Local news. | Kimmel. Kanye West; Willie Nelson. (N) (HD) | |
| CBS | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Robert Morris vs. Duke. (N) (HD) (Live) | | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: St. John's vs. San Diego State. The Red Storm face off against the Aztecs in second-round action from the 2015 NCAA tournament. (N) (HD) (Live) | | | | | |
| Fox | Glee. (Series Finale) Remembering the beginning of the club. (N) (HD) | | | | Local news and programming. | | | | |
| NBC | Grimm. A murder victim missing a foot. (N) (HD) | | Dateline NBC. A murder reopens another mystery. (N) (HD) | | | | Local news. | Fallon. Jeremy Piven; Ariana Grande. (N) (HD) | |
| PBS | Washington Week. | Charlie Rose. | American Masters. Judy Garland's story. | | | | Charlie Rose. (N) (HD) | | |
| CW | Hart of Dixie. (N) (HD) | | iZombie. (HD) | | Local programming. | | | | |
| ION | Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (HD) | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (HD) | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (HD) | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (HD) | | |
| Telemundo | Los miserables. (N) | | Tierra de Reyes. (N) | | Dueños del Paraíso. (N) | | Al Rojo Vivo. (N) | Boxeo Telemundo. | |
| Univision | Mi corazón es tuyo. (N) | | Hasta el Fin del Mundo. (N) | | Que te Perdona Dios/Yo No. (N) | | Impacto Extra. | Noticiero Uni. | |
| CABLE | | | | | | | | | |
| A&E | Criminal Minds. | | Criminal Minds. | | Criminal Minds. | | Bates Motel. | | |
| ABC Family | The Flintstones. (From 7:00) (1994) | | Matilda. With Mara Wilson, Danny DeVito. (1 hr. 33 mins.) (1996) | | | | | The 700 Club. | |
| AHC | D-Day to Victory. | | Inside the Kill Box: Fighting the Gulf War. Retrospective of the war. | | | | | D-Day to Victory. | |
| AMC | The Departed. An undercover cop and a criminal lead double lives. With Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon. (2 hrs. 32 mins.) (2006) | | | | | | | | The Walking Dead. |
| Animal Planet | Insane Pools: Off the Deep End. | | Insane Pools: Off the Deep End. (N) | | American Dreamlands. | | Insane Pools: Off the Deep End. | | |
| BBC America | Star Trek: The Next Generation. | | Star Trek: The Next Generation. | | Star Trek: The Next Generation. | | Star Trek: The Next Generation. | | |
| BET | Why Did I Get Married? (From 6:00) | | Being Mary Jane. Mary Jane moves forward with her life. | | | Scandal. | | | |
| Bravo | Vanderpump Rules. | The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. (N) | | | | | | Miss Congeniality 2. | |
| Cartoon | King of the Hill. | King of the Hill. | Cleveland Show. | Cleveland Show. | American Dad. | Family Guy. | Family Guy. | Jack & Triumph. | |
| CMT | The Princess Diaries. A grandmother teaches etiquette to an heir apparent. With Julie Andrews, Anne Hathaway. (2001) | | Cops Reloaded. | | | | | | Cops Reloaded. |
| CNBC | Shark Tank. | | American Greed. | | American Greed. | | American Greed. | | |
| CNN | Anderson Cooper 360. (N) | | The Wonder List with Bill Weir. | | Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Forgery. | | Crimes of the Century. | | |
| Comedy | Mean Girls. (From 6:54) (2004) | | Futurama. | Futurama. | South Park. | South Park. | Archer. | Archer. | |
| Destination America | IMPACT Wrestling: Unlocked (N) | | IMPACT Wrestling (N) | | IMPACT Wrestling | | | | |
| Discovery | Bering Sea Gold. | | Bering Sea Gold: Dredged Up. (N) | | Bering Sea Gold. (N) | | Bering Sea Gold: Dredged Up. | | |
| Disney | Girl Meets World. | Girl Meets World. | Girl Meets World. | Girl Meets World. | Star Wars Rebels. | Star Wars Rebels. | I Didn't Do It. | Austin & Ally. | |
| DisXD | Ultimate Spider. | | Kickin' It. | | Kickin' It. | Kirby Buckets. | Lab Rats: Bionic Island. | | |
| E! | Keeping Up with the Kardashians. | | Keeping Up with the Kardashians. | | The Soup. (N) (Live) | | E! News. Chris Soules and Witney Carson. | | |
| Esquire | Parks/Recreation. | Parks/Recreation. | Parks/Recreation. | Parks/Recreation. | Parks/Recreation. | Parks/Recreation. | Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome. (1985) | | |
| Fox News | The O'Reilly Factor. (N) | | The Kelly File. (N) | | Hannity. (N) | | The O'Reilly Factor. | | |
| Food | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | Diners, Drive. | |
| FX | Men in Black 3. Agent J must go back to the past to save mankind's future. With Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones. (2012) | | | | | | | | |
| FXX | The Simpsons. | | The Simpsons. | | The Simpsons. | | The Simpsons. | | |
| GSN | The Chase. | | Newlywed. | | Family Feud. | | Family Feud. | | |
| Hallmark | The Waltons. | | The Middle. | | The Middle. | | The Golden Girls. | | |
| HGTV | Love It or List It, Too. | | Love It or List It, Too. (N) | | House Hunters. | | House Hunters. | | |
| History | Gangland Undercover. | | Gangland Undercover. | | Gangland Undercover. | | Gangland Undercover. | | |
| H2 | Ancient Aliens. | | Ancient Aliens. | | Ancient Aliens. | | Ancient Aliens: Special Edition. | | |
| HLN | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | Forensic Files. | |
| ID | Cause of Death. (N) | Cause of Death. (N) | Murder Book. | | Murder Book. | | Cause of Death. | Cause of Death. | |
| IFC | Pulp Fiction. (From 7:30) Criminals cross paths in three interlocked tales of mayhem. With John Travolta. (1994) | | | | | | | | |
| Lifetime | Bring It! Miss D steps up her game. (N) | | Bring It! (N) | | Preachers' Daughters. The girls rebel. (N) | | Kosher Soul. (N) | Kosher Soul. (N) | |
| MSNBC | All In with Chris Hayes. (N) | | The Rachel Maddow Show. (N) | | Lockup. | | Lockup. A new inmate is targeted. | | |
| MTV | Ridiculousness. | | 2015 mtvU Woodie Awards. (N) (Live) | | Catfish: The TV Show. | | Catfish: The TV Show. | | |
| Nat. Geo. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | Brain Games. | |
| Nick | Swindle. (From 7:00) (2013) | | Full House. | | Fresh Prince. | | Friends. | | |
| OWN | For Better or Worse. | | For Better or Worse. | | Too Darn Hot Party. Tyler Perry hosts. | | For Better or Worse. | | |
| Oxygen | Preachers of Detroit. (N) | | Bad Boys. With Martin Lawrence, Will Smith. (1 hr. 58 mins.) (1995) | | | | Preachers of Detroit. | | |
| Science | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | How It's Made. | |
| Spike | Cops. | Cops. | Boxing: Premier Boxing Champions. | | | | Cops. | Cops. | |
| Sundance | Law & Order. | | Law & Order. | | Law & Order. A helicopter crash kills six. | | Law & Order. | | |
| Syfy | Max Payne. (From 7:00) (2008) | | 12 Monkeys. Ramse takes measures. (N) | | Helix. A race to find the Bleeding Tree. (N) | | 12 Monkeys. Ramse takes measures. | | |
| TBS | 2015 NCAA Basketball: Okla. St./Oregon | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Coastal Carolina vs. Wisconsin. (N) (Live) | | | | | | |
| TCM | Darling Lili. A German spy falls in love with her handsome Allied prey. With Julie Andrews. (1970) | | | | Star! With Julie Andrews, Richard Crenna. (1968) | | | | |
| TLC | 19 Kids and Counting. | | Love, Lust or Run. | Style by Jury. (N) | Say Yes, Dress. | Say Yes, Dress. | Love, Lust or Run. | Style by Jury. | |
| TNT | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Davidson vs. Iowa. (N) | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: North Dakota State vs. Gonzaga. (N) (Live) | | | | | | |
| Travel | Mysteries at the Castle. (N) | | Mysteries at the Castle. (N) | | Mysteries at the Museum. | | Mysteries at the Museum. | | |
| TruTV | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Albany (N.Y.) vs. Oklahoma. (N) (Live) | | | | 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament: Dayton vs. Providence. (N) (Live) | | | | |
| TV Land | Family Feud. | Family Feud. | Everybody/Raymond. | Everybody/Raymond. | The King of Queens. | The King of Queens. | The King of Queens. | The King of Queens. | |
| USA | Modern Family. | | Modern Family. | | Modern Family. | | Modern Family. | | |
| VH1 | Love & Hip Hop. | | Johnson Family Vacation. With Cedric the Entertainer. (1 hr. 37 mins.) (2004) | | | | Juwanna Mann. with Vivica A. Fox. (2002) | | |
| WE | David Tuter's CELEBrations. | | David Tuter's CELEBrations. | | David Tuter's CELEBrations. | | David Tuter's CELEBrations. | | |
| Weather | Strangest Weather on Earth. | | Hurricane 360. Superstorm Sandy. | | Hurricane 360. | | Hurricane 360. | | |
| WGN America | America's Funniest Home Videos. (HD) | | How I Met/Mother. | | How I Met/Mother. | How I Met/Mother. | How I Met/Mother. | How I Met/Mother. | |
| MOVIE NETWORKS | | | | | | | | | |
| Cinemax | Dawn of the Dead. (Starts 8:15) Milwaukee residents fight zombies in a mall. With Sarah Polley, Ving Rhames. (1 hr. 40 mins.) (2004) | | | | That Awkward Moment. Three single pals vow to swear off romance. With Zac Efron, Miles Teller. (2014) | | | Atomic Hotel Erotica. (Starts 11:40) | |
| Encore | GoldenEye. A weapon's theft sends Agent 007 to Russia. With Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean. (2 hrs. 10 mins.) (1995) | | | | Marked for Death. (Starts 10:15) A former DEA agent tries to stop a Jamaican drug ring. With Steven Seagal, Basil Wallace. (1 hr. 33 mins.) (1990) | | | | |
| FXM | Slumdog Millionaire. (From 7:00) With Dev Patel, Freida Pinto. (1 hr. 56 mins.) (2008) | | | Slumdog Millionaire. A young man from the slums becomes a game-show contestant. With Dev Patel, Freida Pinto. (1 hr. 56 mins.) (2008) | | | | | |
| HBO | 300: Rise of an Empire. Greek Gen. Themistocles battles invading Persians. With Sullivan Stapleton, Eva Green. (1 hr. 43 mins.) (2014) | | | Real Time with Bill Maher. Sportscaster Bob Costas. (N) (Live) | | VICE. (N) | | Real Time with Bill Maher. | |
| HMM | What I Did for Love. (From 7:00) With Jeremy London, Dorie Barton. (2006) | | Wild Hearts. A widower cares for his daughter at his family's farm. With Richard Thomas, Nancy McKeon. (1 hr. 36 mins.) (2006) | | | Murder, She Wrote. Jessica tries to clear Magnum. | | | |
| Lifetime Movie | Not with My Daughter. An attorney learns that her client seduced her daughter. With Ally Sheedy, Rhys Ward. (1 hr. 30 mins.) (2014) | | | | Intervention. A young woman has an eating disorder. | | Intervention. A woman struggles with an addiction. | | |
| Showtime | Shameless. Frank has a check up with his doctor. | | The Affair. Detective Jeffries makes progress. | | Inside Llewyn Davis. Success stands outside the grasp of a 1960s folk singer. With Oscar Isaac. (2013) | | | Legally Blonde. (Starts 11:45) (2001) | |
| Starz | The Holiday. (From 6:40) With Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet. (2006) | | Sex Tape. A couple scramble to recover an intimate recording that went public. With Cameron Diaz. (2014) | | Black Sails. (iTV) Flint and Miranda brace for the worst. | | Deliver Us From Evil. (Starts 11:35) | | |
| TMC | Be Cool. Chili Palmer runs afoul of record-industry players. With John Travolta, Uma Thurman. (1 hr. 59 mins.) (2005) | | | | Double Jeopardy. Jailed for her husband's murder, a woman learns he lives. With Tommy Lee Jones, Ashley Judd. (1 hr. 45 mins.) (1999) | | | | |
| SPORTS NETWORKS | | | | | | | | | |
| ESPN | College Wrestling: NCAA Championships, Semifinals. From Scottrade Center in St. Louis. (N) (Live) | | | | | | SportsCenter. (N) (Live) | | |
| ESPN2 | Women's College Basketball: Calif. vs. Wichita St. | | | CrossFit Games. | 2014 CrossFit Games. | | ATP Tennis. | | |
| ESPNU | College Softball: Oklahoma at LSU. (N) | | SportsCenterU. (N) | College Basketball: NIT Tournament, 2nd Round: South Dakota St. vs. Vanderbilt(N) (Live) | | | SportsCenterU. (N) | | |
| FS1 | NASCAR Racing. | | UFC Fighter's Cut. | | UFC Insider. | | UFC Main Event. Featherweight title fight. | | |
| Golf | PGA Tour Golf: Champions: Tucson Conquistadors Classic, First Round. (N) | | | | Golf Central. (N) | PGA Tour Golf: Arnold Palmer Invitational, Second Round. | | | |
| MLB | Intentional Talk. (N) (Live) | | MLB Preseason Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at San Francisco Giants. From Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz. (N) (Live) | | | | | | |
| NBA | NBA GameTime. The latest NBA news and highlights from around the league. (N) | | | | | | | | |
| NBCSports | College Hockey: Hockey East Championship – Boston University vs. New Hampshire. (N) (Live) | | | | NHL Top 10. | | NBA GameTime. (N) | | |
| NFLN | A Football Life. | | A Football Life. | | Path to the Draft. | | NFL Total Access. | | |

BASEBALL

ROYALS BUILDING ON BULLPEN

2013 standout
Hochevar nearly
ready to return

Paul White
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USA TODAY Sports

SURPRISE, ARIZ. The Kansas City Royals’ late-innings relief combination of Greg Holland, Wade Davis and Kelvin Herrera was the dominant story line of last year’s postseason — at least until Madison Bumgarner’s World Series-winning trump card.

The October fame was nice, but the Royals’ shutdown trio was overpowering pretty much all year. Consider these combined numbers for the regular season: 5.7 hits per nine innings, 11.4 strikeouts per nine and 3.7 strikeouts for every walk.

Wait, it gets better — very soon. When we last saw Luke Hochevar, he was better than that: 5.2 hits per nine, 10.5 strikeouts per nine and a 4.82 strikeout-to-walk ratio. That was during the 2013 season, the 2006 No. 1 overall pick’s first as a reliever.

Since then, he has had Tommy John elbow surgery, watched the team he has grown with win an American League pennant and nearly a World Series and resigned himself that, as he says, “There’s not a stinking thing in the world you can do.”

He can now. When you see, in all probability, Hochevar’s name back on the disabled list when this season begins, be patient. That won’t be nearly as difficult — or as long — as how he’s had to bide his time.

The big, bearded right-hander got into his first spring game this week and was able to say the same thing he said before the game: “I feel great. I can’t complain about anything.”

In other words, the Royals bullpen is about to get even better.

Hochevar’s surgery was one year ago Wednesday, and he figures to rejoin the club sometime in April. It doesn’t hurt that the Royals bullpen as we know it should be saving games in the meantime.

Manager Ned Yost hasn’t even started to sort out how the late innings will play out once Hochevar is back. But, to borrow from Yogi Berra, it’s going to get late early in Kansas City.

It could be ridiculously early. There’s also Brandon Finnegan, last year’s first-round pick by the Royals who made his debut in September, had a 1.29 ERA in seven appearances down the stretch and found himself on the postseason roster. The 21-year-old lefty’s eventual role is as a starter but he has five pro starts — all at high Class A — and his being a left-hander could factor into the roster decisions after primary lefty reliever Tim Collins had Tom-



JOE CAMPOREALE, USA TODAY SPORTS

Royals reliever Luke Hochevar last pitched in 2013, when he had a 1.92 ERA and 0.83 WHIP in 58 appearances.

my John surgery this month.

Veteran lefty Franklin Morales also has impressed Yost this spring, so he could fill a situational spot if the Royals decide they prefer to emphasize Finnegan’s development as a starter. Remember, they lost ace James Shields, and free agent signing Edinson Volquez is the likely newcomer to the rotation.

But back to the bullpen and Ryan Madson — remember him?

He’s a veteran of four postseasons with the Philadelphia Phillies, including 2011 when he had 32 saves. That’s the last time he pitched — again thanks to Tommy John surgery and subsequent complications.

Contracts with three teams later, “He looks great,” Yost says.

Yeah, he’s aiming for a spot in the Royals bullpen.

“All systems are go with him,” Yost says. “Healthy, feeling good. He’s got the fastball back up to 91, 92 with that devastating change-up.”

Like Hochevar, Madson is on a conservative ramp-up program pointing toward April. Madson will probably have to start the season in the minors — the bullpen is simply that crowded.

And, like Hochevar, there’s no reason to rush.

“It’s just being off the mound for an extended period, getting your timing, your delivery, your mechanics and consistently getting your pitches down in the zone,” Yost says. “You build them up. You don’t start a race.”

And despite what you might have seen in October — the bullpen pitched 45% of the Royals’ World Series innings — Yost isn’t planning any drastic new strategy for this season. Like every other

team, he’ll look at a seven-man relief group with an eighth as a possibility from time to time. And he’ll want as many innings as possible from his starters.

“Going into the playoffs, all of a sudden, the significance of the games is much bigger,” Yost says. “You use your bullpen a lot more than you would during the regular season.”

“You still have to depend on your starting pitchers to go deep into games so that your bullpen can be healthy and can be available to do that in late September and into October.”

You see, he’s planning on it now.

A LONG DECEMBER

The underlying theme of the Royals’ pennant was a group of players who mostly grew up together in their professional lives and finally matched expectations that had surrounded them for longer than they cared to hear and beyond plenty of fans’ and analysts’ sell-by date.

They figured it out, learned how to win, believed they could win. So when did that finally happen?

“Eighth inning of the wild-card game,” Yost says.

So much for the emotional made-for-TV movie full of maturing, bonding and overcoming adversity. It’s a ballgame, folks.

And in that particular one, Yost recalls, “They came in, we were down four runs, 7-3, against Jon Lester, a pitcher we never beat. They came in for the bottom of the eighth inning and I’ve never seen them so intense, never seen them so fired up.

“All you could hear from the far end of the dugout was, ‘We’re

not losing this game. Not tonight. Not to this guy.’ They went out and scored three, tied it up in the ninth; they scored, we scored; they scored, we scored. But they believed that they were good enough.”

And they won the next seven games to sweep into the World Series.

Nice winter stories for the fans, but that’s not the feeling that permeates this spring training.

“I said all winter long that I was very proud of what we accomplished but I wasn’t satisfied with what we’d accomplished,” Yost says of getting pretty much to within one swing of beating the San Francisco Giants. “When I got to spring training, I found out to a man that was the exact same feeling — and they were serious.”

Maybe getting so close eliminated a happy-to-have-been-there carryover.

“I know the taste it left in all our mouths,” first baseman Eric Hosmer says. “I know it made the offseason feel like it was that much longer.

“The way it ended, it was tough. It was tough to look at all these guys after that loss because all these guys had invested so much. We all truly believed we were going to do it.”

That’s translated to what Yost calls the best spring training he’s ever been around. “There is no, ‘OK, let’s get focused. Let’s do this right.’ The intensity and the focus have been there from the start,” he says.

He doesn’t think he’ll need to push very hard this year.

“Until you go to the World Series, I don’t think you ever realize what you’re missing,” Yost says. “You can sit at home and watch

the World Series from your couch and think, ‘Oh, that’s cool, it’s the World Series.’ Until you experience it, you don’t understand exactly what it’s like. And once you experience it, you never want to not experience it again — ever.”

NEW MATH

The Royals could be one of the most disrespected champions in recent memory.

Despite going 89-73, plus an 11-4 postseason run, the projection processes at major analytical websites don’t even come up with a winning record for 2015.

FanGraphs has them going 79-83 and finishing third in the AL Central behind the Indians and Tigers. Baseball Prospectus treats the Royals even more harshly, projecting a 72-90 record and fourth-place finish.

Certainly, there’s been turnover since last season — most notably Alex Rios replacing Nori Aoki in right field and Kendrys Morales at DH for Billy Butler.

That, however, is not the issue.

Both websites have the Royals scoring just about as many runs as a year ago — three more according to FanGraphs, five fewer from Baseball Prospectus.

So the computers clearly aren’t buying into the pitching that was so crucial a year ago.

Inside the Royals clubhouse, the calculations are different.

“For the first time, all of our planning is to go deep into October,” Yost says.

Of course, you still have to get there.

“We feel now for the first time we have a team that’s capable of doing that,” Yost says. “We thought we did last year, and then the thought became reality.”

IN BRIEF



KELVIN KUO, USA TODAY SPORTS

Katie Lou Samuelson averages 30 points for Mater Dei High.

SAMUELSON EARNS GIRLS NATIONAL HOOP HONORS

Mater Dei High (Santa Ana, Calif.) senior **Katie Lou Samuelson** was named the 2014-15 Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Samuelson, 17, has committed to Connecticut. The 6-3 guard has led the Monarchs to a 30-2 record and a berth in the semifinals of the open division state tournament, scheduled for Saturday. The state’s returning Gatorade player of the year, Samuelson is averaging 30.0 points, 8.6 rebounds and 2.3 steals a game. The leading scorer for the U.S. un-

der-17 team that won the world championship in 2014, she was named to the USA TODAY Sports American Family Insurance All-USA first team. — Chad Konecky Special for USA TODAY

DISNEY CHANNEL PLANS BIOPIC OF MO’NE DAVIS

Little League pitching sensation **Mo’ne Davis** will be the subject of a Disney Channel movie. The network said development was underway on the biographical film, titled *Throw Like Mo*. It will tell the story of the 13-year-old who last summer made history as the first girl to pitch a shutout in the Little League World Series. A member of Philadelphia’s Taney Dragons, Davis then became the first Little Leaguer to make the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. She will serve as a consultant on the movie. Disney Channel did not specify an air date or cast.

JAGUARS CLAIM PIERCE OFF WAIVERS AFTER RELEASE

The Jacksonville Jaguars claimed **Bernard Pierce** off waivers, one day after the running back’s drunken-driving charge led to his release by the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens moved quickly Wednesday to cut Pierce, holding to the team’s assertion last month that off-field misbehavior would not be tolerated. Running back **Ray Rice** was suspended by the

NFL and released by the Ravens after his domestic violence arrest last year. Rice was one of five Baltimore players arrested in 2014. Pierce, 24, rushed for 1,334 yards and five touchdowns in 45 career games with the Ravens, including three starts. He was a third-round draft pick in 2012. He had 366 yards rushing and two touchdowns last season.

VONN SKIS TO HER FIFTH WORLD CUP SUPER-G TITLE

Lindsey Vonn claimed the World Cup super-G title for the fifth time after winning the last race in the discipline Thursday in the season-ending finals in Meribel, France. The day after clinching the downhill title, Vonn, 30,



ED SZCZEPANSKI, USA TODAY SPORTS

Mo’ne Davis will serve as a consultant on the Disney Channel movie.

FORTHEWIN

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extended her record number of crystal globes (given to the season points leader) in women’s Alpine skiing to 19, equaling Swedish great **Ingemar Stenmark**’s total. With 67 race wins, also a women’s record, Vonn is behind Stenmark’s 86 victories.

FIFA: 2022 WORLD CUP FINAL IN QATAR WILL BE DEC. 18

The final match of the 2022 World Cup will be played Dec. 18, Qatar’s national holiday. FIFA spokesman **Walter De Gregorio** confirmed the date Thursday but did not say when the tournament would start. He said soccer’s governing body’s executive committee preferred a 28-day tournament, starting Nov. 21. De Gregorio said the executive committee could confirm the kickoff date today. By rejecting the Europa League’s preferred Dec. 23 final, FIFA’s executive committee helped protect the English Pre-

mier League’s traditional Dec. 26 program. A 28-day World Cup, four days fewer than usual, cuts the time clubs must release players to national teams. Qatar bid to stage games in June and July.

DJOKOVIC REACHES INDIAN WELLS SEMIFINALS

Novak Djokovic advanced to the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, Calif., on Thursday when **Bernard Tomic** withdrew because of a back injury. Tomic’s withdrawal was announced about five hours before he was to play Djokovic, a three-time champion at Indian Wells who has won his first three matches in straight sets. He has defeated Tomic each of the three times they’ve played. Tomic reached the quarterfinals at six of the seven tournaments this year.

Compiled by John Tkach from staff and wire reports

NASCAR



GARY A. VASQUEZ, USA TODAY SPORTS

Denny Hamlin is motivated after breaking his back and missing the race the past two years.

JOHNSON RULES HIS HOME TRACK

Hot Harvick also among favorites at Auto Club Speedway

Jeff Gluck

@jeff_gluck
USA TODAY Sports

FONTANA, CALIF. The Auto Club 400 will have a new winner this year.

Kyle Busch, who has won the last two races at Auto Club Speedway, will be watching the race from home after breaking his leg and foot last month in a crash at Daytona International Speedway.

So who will stand in victory lane at the 2-mile oval in the heart of California's Inland Empire? We'll take a shot at that question — and a few others — below.

If not Busch, then who?

Probably Jimmie Johnson. The Hendrick Motorsports driver has a record five victories at Auto Club. And though his most recent win came in 2010, he'll still enter Sunday as the favorite based off his 2014 performance.

Last year, Johnson dominated the race, leading 104 laps and holding the top spot with seven laps to go. But tire problems plagued several drivers in the race, and Johnson was no exception. A flat tire took him out of the lead, and he had to settle for a 24th-place finish.

Johnson's average finish at Auto Club is 6.6 — the best among drivers with more than one career start. Even if Busch was around, Johnson still might be the man to beat.

What about Kevin Harvick and his hot streak?

In 2010, after the aforementioned Johnson win, a frustrated Harvick theorized Johnson had a golden horseshoe stuck up his rear end.

Some could say the same about Harvick these days, except his once-in-a-generation hot streak has nothing to do with luck.

Harvick's seven consecutive top-two finishes — the most since Richard Petty had 11 in 1975 — are a product of having the fastest car, the best team and a talented veteran behind the wheel.

So it would be no surprise to see Harvick win Sunday, and it would be his third consecutive victory and fifth in the last seven races. Though Harvick has only nine top-10 finishes in 21 career Auto Club starts (including a win in 2011), his recent success has made his career statistics mostly irrelevant.

Last year, Harvick finished 36th when he had tire problems. Two, in fact — both of which came while he was running in the top five.

Will Denny Hamlin be at a disadvantage after missing last year's race?

No way. Hamlin is highly motivated to win Sunday's race after he broke his back in a last-lap



GARY A. VASQUEZ, USA TODAY SPORTS

Jimmie Johnson, who is from El Cajon, Calif., has a record five victories and a 6.6 average finish at Auto Club Speedway.

crash in 2013 and then missed last year's race with a piece of metal in his eye (which was initially misdiagnosed as a sinus infection).

Though the last time Hamlin ran racing laps at Auto Club was when he battled Joey Logano for the victory in 2013, he had a full weekend of practice last year and thought he had a car that could win.

Now Hamlin will return to finish the job at a track he already said was among his top three most desired places to win — and that was before last year.

"Ultimately, my motivation is to go there and perform at a really high level," he said. "It's been circled for like a year or two now to run well there. I just didn't get a chance last year, and hopefully I will this year."

Could this be Kyle Larson's first career Sprint Cup win?

For sure. The California native won last year's Xfinity Series race at the track and then nearly outdueled Busch in the Cup race before finishing just behind him.

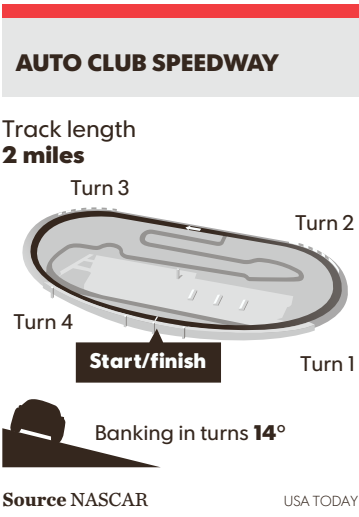
Larson and Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Jamie McMurray keep showing flashes of speed, and it seems like they're both getting closer to a breakthrough victory.

The 22-year-old's young career seems somewhat similar to that of Kasey Kahne, who showed potential by finishing second six times in 2004-05 before earning his first win. Larson has finished second three times.

Perhaps Sunday could be his first win.

"I love racing at Auto Club," Larson said. "It's probably one of my favorite tracks, because it is so wide and you can run just about anywhere on the track, it seems like."

"Our team tested out here with the new rules package late last season, so having that experience will be nice this weekend."



WEEKEND RACING

NASCAR Sprint Cup Auto Club 400

Site: Fontana, Calif.
Distance: 400 miles, 200 laps
Time/TV: Sunday, 3:30 p.m. ET (Fox)

Other series

NASCAR Xfinity: Drive4 Clots.com 300, in Fontana. **Time/TV:** Saturday, 4 p.m. ET (Fox Sports 1). **Last week:** Daytona 500 winner Joey Logano won at Phoenix International Raceway for his first series victory since 2013. **Fast facts:** Denny Hamlin is driving in place of injured Kyle Busch in Joe Gibbs Racing's No. 54 Toyota.

Tudor United SportsCar Championship: Twelve Hours of Sebring, Sebring International Raceway, Sebring, Fla. **Time/TV:** Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ET (Fox Sports 1), 12:30-7 p.m., 10-11 p.m. (Fox Sports 2).

The Associated Press

JEFF GORDON'S FAREWELL TOUR
Follow the four-time champ's last season at nascar.usatoday.com.

Tire packs best when not close

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

But for the more common impacts, such as at a 45-degree angle, SAFER barriers are more effective.

"(The tire barrier) grabs you," said Sicking, a professor at Alabama at Birmingham. "So if you hit at low angle, like Dale Earnhardt's crash (which killed him in the 2001 Daytona 500), 13-degree angle, it's going to turn that car right into the barrier and you're going to come to a stop right now. That's tough."

Sam Hornish Jr., who has raced at tracks with tire barriers in NASCAR and IndyCar, says the tire packs can be good as long as they are in areas well off the racing surface.

"They do soften that blow, but what we have seen with tire barriers in the past is, generally, if they are too close to the racetrack and someone hits them, it bounces you back toward the track," Hornish said. "Those hits are usually way more dangerous than the initial one you took hitting the wall."

Tire barriers aren't new, but they've dominated the safety headlines in racing recently as tracks scramble to install more SAFER barriers, which are costly and take more time to erect.

NASCAR and the tracks have said they will accelerate the evaluation process and determine where to put permanent SAFER barriers (Steel And Foam Energy Reduction or so-called "soft walls") on many of the remaining uncovered areas. Weekly updates from the track hosting NASCAR's next stop have become standard.

Auto Club Speedway, the site of this weekend's races and the speedy 2-mile oval where Denny Hamlin broke his back when he crashed head-on into an interior concrete wall in 2013, is installing tire barriers on the inside of Turn 1. Track President Dave Allen was unavailable for comment but said in a statement last week that the safety of drivers, fans and speedway workers was and always had been a top priority.

TEMPORARY SOLUTION

On NASCAR's high-speed ovals, the tires aren't meant to be a permanent solution but somewhat of a Band-Aid until SAFER barriers can be put into place.

But on ovals the barriers are typically placed far from the racing surface. That's why the barriers are more of an issue in IndyCar, which often races on road courses or street circuits where tire packs could be a useful temporary solution.

"The problem with tire barriers for us is we don't have fenders, and when you go into the tires it'll rip the steering wheel out of your hand," Verizon IndyCar Series driver Graham Rahal told USA TODAY Sports. "We don't have power steering like they do (in NASCAR), so when you hit a tire, if it catches your wrist or something, it can do a lot of damage quickly."

Still, they're better than nothing.

Some IndyCar drivers called for more tire packs this week at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Ala., after Sage Karam hit an unprotected steel Armco barrier during testing, injuring his hand and wrist.

Retired four-time IndyCar champion Dario Franchitti said a tire barrier should have been at the Turn 15 wall.

"I don't think there should be any unprotected Armco," Franchitti told USA TODAY Sports. "Certainly not in possible high-speed impact zones."

"Without question, tires need to be put there," reigning IndyCar champion Will Power told USA TODAY Sports.

The track said it would add one at Turn 15 before next month's IndyCar race.

Many of the barrier areas at Barber are protected by tires that are covered with white vinyl to make them look more aesthetically pleasing, track manager Mark Whitt told USA TODAY Sports. Those tires are guarded by conveyor belts; Sicking, who consults with Barber on safety, says they give the packs a smooth surface so they don't grab cars.

Whitt said the tire barriers were very expensive but added,

"We don't look at safety as cost-prohibitive."

"We just look at it where potential things can happen and where they're needed most," he said. "We have a lot of tire barriers here. ... Crews of people are needed to put that all in place, but we can do it. No problem. We've done it thousands and thousands of times."

MOVING QUICKLY

NASCAR tracks have found themselves forced to act quickly after Busch's crash.

Hours after Busch's crash Feb. 21, Daytona International Speedway President Joie Chitwood III made a decision: The spot where Busch hit, near the exit of the tri-oval, would be covered with tire barriers by the time the green flag for the Daytona 500 waved the next day.

"We don't look at safety as cost-prohibitive."

Mark Whitt, track manager at Barber Motorsports Park

Before his news conference was complete, workers already were unloading tire packs out of semitrailers and placing them against the wall. The stopgap addition was in stark contrast to the construction backdrop at the speedway, which is in the midst of a \$400 million facelift that focuses on fan amenities.

Atlanta Motor Speedway, which hosted NASCAR races the weekend after the Daytona 500, put 51 feet of tire barriers in Turn 1 and 117 feet in Turn 4, using about 74 tire packs (stacks with 15 tires each) that were shipped in from Charlotte on three flat-bed trucks, track spokesman Dustin Bixby told USA TODAY Sports.

Bixby said he did not know the cost but the time investment wasn't very big: The packs left Charlotte on a Tuesday and were in place by the time cars hit the track for a test session two days later.

Soon after, other tracks followed suit — something that is expected to continue throughout the season.

None were added for the race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, where a hard hit by Jeff Gordon in 2008 prompted the track to add a SAFER barrier at the site of his crash.

Phoenix International Raceway installed tire barriers on the inside wall of Turn 4 before last weekend's events. Track spokesman Zac Emmons told USA TODAY Sports it took about four or five hours to install the barriers, which came from Auto Club Speedway. Phoenix did not disclose the cost.

NASCAR referred questions on the tire barriers to the individual tracks and declined to make an official available to comment for this story. The sanctioning body considers every situation different and views the barriers as one of a handful of safeguards that can be implemented.

The tire barriers might not be a fixture on NASCAR ovals for long. Talladega Superspeedway announced Thursday that it would add SAFER barriers in three locations on its inside walls in time for its race weekend May 1-3.

But Sicking said he wouldn't criticize NASCAR for not having SAFER barriers, which first were used at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 2002, installed everywhere. The sanctioning body was very aggressive from 2004 to 2008, he said, before the economy went bad.

"Then some of the tracks got weak," he said. "Some were sitting on the verge of fiscal collapse, so NASCAR backed off some, to keep them in business, to keep the sport going."

"It's hard when you're climbing back from the brink of bankruptcy to know when you're liquid enough to start making big capital improvements."

Contributing: Brant James in St. Petersburg, Fla.; Jeff Olson in Birmingham, Ala.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR AT AUTO CLUB SPEEDWAY
Brant James' story lines at nascar.usatoday.com.

NBA

WARRIORS LACK WEAK SPOTS

Criticism of team falls flat when looking at depth

Sam Amick
@sam_amick
USA TODAY Sports

OAKLAND The annual exercise of nitpicking about the NBA's best teams is well underway of late, if only because that's the trendy thing to do this time of year.

It's a time for projecting about the playoffs, with every team that's headed in that direction subject to criticisms both fair and absurd.

The Golden State Warriors (54-13), who have a possible first-round playoff preview with the New Orleans Pelicans today, just came off a big win vs. the Eastern Conference-leading Atlanta Hawks. The incriminating theory about the Warriors goes like this: MVP candidate Stephen Curry and two-way terror Klay Thompson will be double-teamed at every turn when the postseason rolls around, and their jump-shooting ways — no matter how reliable they have been all season long — will fail them when it matters most, and thus the season's most scintillating story will end with a miserable final chapter.

But by beating the Hawks, the Warriors improved to 31-2 at home and now have the fifth-best point differential at home in the history of the NBA.

They're an unfair +15.3 at this point, behind only the 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks at +17.9, the 1971-72 Milwaukee Bucks at +17.7, the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls at +17.1 and the 1949-50 Minneapolis Lakers at +16. And for what it's worth, only the 1971-72 Bucks didn't win a championship among that group.

Go ahead and question whether the Warriors have the weapons



PHOTOS BY BOB STANTON, USA TODAY SPORTS

Stephen Curry's impact isn't just from his long-range shooting. He confounds defenses, too.

to make a deep playoff run, but the mountain of evidence indicating otherwise is pretty overwhelming at this point. Some of their non-stars are like volcanoes gone dormant, wildly talented players who are always capable of so much more but who don't erupt because it's simply not their role.

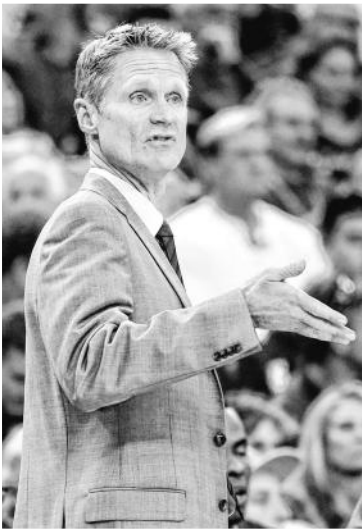
And here's the part that nobody saw coming when they fired Mark Jackson and ultimately hired Steve Kerr to take over as

head coach: That's true on the defensive end as much as it is on offense.

When Kerr came aboard, the general belief was that Golden State owner Joe Lacob wanted to inject life (and more ball movement) into the Warriors' sometimes-stagnant offense.

But then Kerr, who tipped his hand during his tenure as the Phoenix Suns general manager as defense-first when he clashed with Mike D'Antoni over the issue

of the team's offense-only approach, went out and hired defensive guru Ron Adams as one of his many qualified assistants. And then he took full advantage of the early David Lee injury, giving gritty Draymond Green a chance to win the starting job and allowing him to keep it when Lee (who, by the way, didn't play a lick against the Hawks) came back. And then he persuaded Andre Iguodala to come off the bench so Harrison Barnes could find his way. The



Steve Kerr has emphasized defense.

moves have been pure magic, leaving Golden State as the league's top defensive group by a significant margin (they're allowing 97.6 points per 100 possessions, with the Milwaukee Bucks second at 99.2).

How good is this defense? They have so many top-tier defenders that Green — who is most often mentioned as a top candidate for defensive player of the year — is no better than a third-leading candidate if you ask big man Andrew Bogut, who says that award should go to "Me ... and Andre. We'll hold the trophy up together." It wasn't a knock on Green so much as it was a hat-tip to Iguodala, whose selflessness and leadership in their special season has been genuinely appreciated behind the scenes.

Guys such as Green, Iguodala and even Barnes are capable of guarding opposing post-players with enough effectiveness that the help defender doesn't have to panic. That has everything to do with Lee's role diminishing of late, as Kerr clearly prefers this punch-you-in-the-mouth style that isn't suited for his style.

Nitpick, in other words, at your own risk.

GOLF

Greens trouble Palmer players

Steve DiMeglio
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USA TODAY Sports

ORLANDO With the absence of Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy assumed the starring role in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

In Thursday's first round at steamy Bay Hill, he was joined by a diverse cast of characters that suggests Arnie's annual gathering will be a wild west-type shootout. And in the end, the deciding factor could be the smallest blades of grass on the golf course.

On a course that favors the game's longest hitters, McIlroy, who is one of them, shot an indifferent 2-under-par 70 and sits four shots off the lead held by big-hitting Morgan Hoffman. World No. 1 McIlroy hit 17 of 18 greens but played the four par-5s in even par and didn't trust himself on greens that are far from ideal after a rough winter.

With all the traffic on the greens and two more hot days in the forecast, the putting surfaces that already are on edge will get more difficult to handle. The greens are on the slow side because the root structure is barely existent and there isn't much grass to cut to make them faster.

"When the greens are like they are, you're going to have to stay patient because you're going to hit good putts that don't go in, and I felt like I didn't really trust myself on some of the putts," McIlroy said. "I didn't trust the reads and just was sort of in two minds quite a lot, so I'll try and get a little better mentally over the putts."

Sitting one shot back of Hoffman at 67 is bomber Jason Kokrak, Kevin Na (who needed only 22 putts), John Peterson and Ian Poulter. In a group at 68: world No. 4 Adam Scott, who opened with a 62 last year, Pebble Beach winner Brandt Snedeker, No. 3 Henrik Stenson, Honda Classic winner Padraig Harrington and

long-hitter Keegan Bradley.

"The greens are not as good as what they would like to have them," said Poulter, who knocked in a 16-footer for eagle on the 16th. "Arnie puts a lot of hard work into this tournament to try to get it ready, and they're not as good as he would have liked it, but they're good."

McIlroy, who has won once and finished runner-up once on the European Tour this year, hasn't broken 70 in seven rounds over three tournaments in the USA. This is the last tournament McIlroy will play before the Masters in three weeks, where he'll try to win a third consecutive major championship and try to become the sixth player to complete the career Grand Slam.

"I felt like I was seeing good signs out there with my game,"

"I'm just trying to clean up a few areas that I didn't do so well today, and it could be a really good week."

Rory McIlroy

McIlroy said. "I hit a lot of good shots. I was trying to stay as patient as possible and hit good shots (but) not doing anything with them, making a lot of pars. ... "Another three days of hopefully solid golf ... and that will put me in a good place going into Augusta."

After his round, McIlroy had to take a mandatory drug test.

Then he had dinner with Palmer, four days after he bumped into Jack Nicklaus at lunch and six days after he lifted weights in the fitness center at Augusta National with NFL stars Tom Brady and Peyton and Eli Manning.

Off the course, things are going pretty well for McIlroy. He thinks they'll start to improve on the course, too.

"There's a lot of the game that's right there," he said. "I'm just trying to clean up a few areas that I didn't do so well today, and it could be a really good week."

NFL DRAFT

Scheuerman has a shot

Prolific back from little Lafayette eyes pro career

Tom Pelissero
@TomPelissero
USA TODAY Sports

Lafayette College isn't exactly a football factory.

A player from the little liberal arts college (enrollment: roughly 2,400) in Easton, Pa., hasn't been drafted into the NFL since 1987. The Leopards compete in the Patriot League, which didn't even offer scholarships for football when running back Ross Scheuerman enrolled in 2011.

All of which makes it more remarkable that Scheuerman has a real shot, with trips to the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl and NFL scouting combine behind him and at least seven teams slated to attend today's pro-day workout on campus.

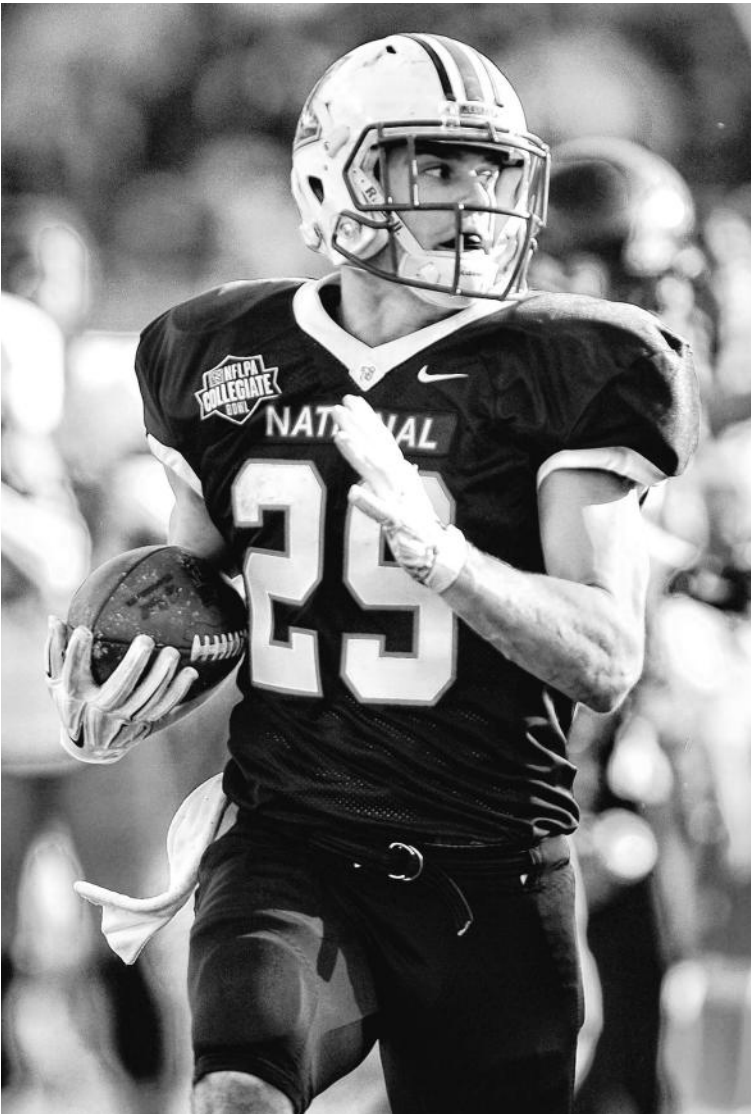
"This doesn't happen," Lafayette offensive coordinator Mickey Fein told USA TODAY Sports of the pro-day event, at which he'll throw to Scheuerman in drills.

"He's just a special kid, because he could do so many things. He's a versatile guy. The thing that made him a little bit different was his speed. As soon as he got through the line and if he had any space, he could take it to the house."

Of course, there's a difference between outrunning the Lehigh defense — as Scheuerman did in his final college game, racking up a school-record 304 yards and three touchdowns at Yankee Stadium in the 150th meeting between the rivals — and outrunning, say, the Philadelphia Eagles.

At 6-0 and 204 pounds, Scheuerman has no illusions about being an every-down running back in the NFL. "That's just not my body type, which is why a lot of teams see me in the slot," Scheuerman said. "I'm not really a bruising back."

But the quickness, receiving ability and hands he has shown in Lafayette's multiple pro-style offense makes Scheuerman an intriguing prospect in a role along



GARY A. VASQUEZ, USA TODAY SPORTS

Ross Scheuerman, who ran for 3,504 yards in college, hopes to be the first Lafayette player since 1987 drafted by the NFL.

the lines of how the New England Patriots used Shane Vereen and Danny Woodhead in recent years.

His times in the 20-yard shuttle (4.11 seconds) and 60-yard shuttle (11.40) ranked among the top five among running backs at the combine.

"He's a coach's dream, because he works hard and shuts his mouth and really tries to do what you're asking him to do," Fein said. "He was a wrestler in high school, too, so he's a tough kid."

Scheuerman finished his college career among Lafayette's career leaders with 3,504 rushing yards (third) and 31 rushing touchdowns (fourth). He also led the Leopards with 57 catches for

521 yards as a senior and returned a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown.

After pro day, he's expected to participate in local workout days with the New York Jets and Giants as well, maximizing exposure for a player who needs all he can get coming out of a Division I Football Championship Subdivision school.

"I know my ticket to making a team is going to be through special teams," Scheuerman said. "So getting on the field and making plays that way is how I'm going to really start making a name for myself."

"From there, anything can happen."

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Early upsets add to tourney lore

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

used as confetti for the title game. “I’m watching all these upsets and can’t quite believe what I’m watching,” Louisville coach Rick Pitino said.

Buckle up, Coach. It’s just getting started.

The unpredictability of the tournament is what has always made it so appealing, particularly in the early rounds.

UAB, a No. 14 seed, should have no business beating bigger, more experienced Iowa State. Down by 12 to Baylor with about 2½ minutes to play, Georgia State should slink quietly off the court, not stage a furious rally that ends with a shot that will be on high-light reels for decades.

Seriously. Watch R.J. Hunter’s three-pointer from *loooong* range, and see if it doesn’t belong with Grant Hill’s pass, Bryce Drew’s catch-

and-release and Keith Smart’s “The Shot.”

“I hugged my sister and said, ‘We’re going to be in *One Shining Moment*,’ because we always watched that as a family,” R.J. Hunter said. “That’s what we watch when your dad is a coach. It’s unbelievable, man.”

Ditto for the finish of the UCLA game.

There was no shortage of people who said the Bruins didn’t belong in the tournament, and they looked as if they were going to prove the critics right when they let SMU back into the game with a 19-0 run in the second half.

But Bryce Alford had one of those days when he couldn’t miss — even when he did.

His last three appeared to be short and off center. But the ball also was higher than the rim when SMU’s Yanick Moreira touched it, and that, by the strict letter of the law, is goaltending.

NCAA rules don’t allow for a review of a goaltending call.

“That’s the definition of March Madness for you right there,” Bryce Alford said, “the last two minutes of this game.”

And that’s why we watch. Why we fill out brackets, too, knowing they’ll be awash in red ink soon enough but not really caring.

This is the one event in which the improbable is far from impossible, and it’s only a matter of time until that’s proved again. Richmond, Valparaiso, George Mason, Florida Gulf Coast — they are as much a part of tournament lore as Duke, North Carolina, Kentucky and UCLA.

“I’ve been a part of one of the best moments in college basketball in the NCAA tournament, with my brother hitting that shot,” said Baylor coach Scott Drew, older brother of Bryce. “And I think I’ve been part of one of the worst that I’ll remember, R.J. hitting that shot.”

Pure madness. In the NCAA tournament, it’s a beautiful thing.

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Ga. State upends Baylor

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

those backyard snapshots came flooding back.

“He’s always dreamed about making that last shot,” Ron Hunter said. “I knew he was going to make it.”

With a 35-footer from the top of the key that sailed over a helpless Baylor defense and dropped through the net with 2.7 seconds left, R.J. Hunter delivered his father’s greatest victory and one of the NCAA tournament’s biggest upsets. Closing the game with 13 consecutive points in the final 2 minutes, 39 seconds, Hunter and No. 14 seed Georgia State delivered a finish that will be remembered for decades, beating No. 3 seed Baylor 57-56.

“That’s backyard stuff with Pops right there,” Hunter said. “For me to do that on a big stage is definitely a blessing. I was numb, but I knew it was money as soon as I let it go.”

With the father-son story line, the NCAA tournament return of Louisville transfer Kevin Ware and the injury Ron Hunter suffered Sunday — tearing his Achilles during the Sun Belt Conference championship game celebration, forcing him to coach Thursday from a rolling stool — all the elements were in place for Georgia State to become the feel-good story of March.

The Panthers just had to deliver, which didn’t seem likely when they fell behind 56-44 with fewer than three minutes left, at which point R.J. Hunter, a projected first-round NBA draft pick, had made one of eight field goal tries.

“It was tough because I could see it in his face,” Ron Hunter said. “You know your kid, man. He was trying to figure out a way to get open and what they were doing it was kind of a mini box-and-one. But what we noticed is it freed up the other guys, so we said just keep moving and trust your teammates. Somebody else has to make baskets and late you’ll be able to get them, and boy, it was right there.”

R.J. Hunter said he felt like everything would change if he could just get one jumper to fall, but as he roamed from corner to corner, nothing was happening, and time was running out. But with 1:34 left, he finally got space on the wing and a clean look at the basket, burying a three-pointer to pull within 56-49.

Whether it was the moment, the suddenly shrinking lead or Georgia State’s pressure, Baylor got shaky. The Bears threw away the inbounds pass, leading to a Hunter floater, then turned it over again on the ensuing inbounds play, allowing Hunter to glide in for a layup.

There were other moments of folly down the stretch for the collapsing Bears — a missed dunk by Rico Gathers, a 21st and final turnover with 21 seconds left and a



TOMMY GILLIGAN, USA TODAY SPORTS

Georgia State’s R.J. Hunter shoots the game-winning three.

missed front-end free throw by Kenny Chery — normally an 81% foul shooter — with 14 seconds left.

All of them led to that last shot, as 6-6 Hunter dribbled across halfcourt and flipped the ball to a screening T.J. Shipes, who seemed surprised to get it, even though they had gone through the same sequence hundreds of times playing pickup ball.

“I had my back to the basket. I didn’t know how much time was left,” Shipes said. “I was like, ‘You’re taking that right back. I’m not taking that shot.’”

Hunter was really just trying to create misdirection, to get the defenders away from him just a hair. It worked. Still, a 35-footer — even an open one — isn’t the preferred shot for most teams down by two with the season on the line. But Georgia State couldn’t have hoped for anything better.

“If it’s R.J. Hunter taking that shot, I’m cool with it,” Ware said.

It’s hard to pinpoint what was more entertaining: the shot or what happened immediately afterward. As the ball ripped through the net, Ron Hunter fell

— dove? — off his stool, landing on his belly. And when Baylor’s final heave from Taurean Prince missed badly, he crouched over, cradling his hands in his face.

“I know something else is broke, but I don’t even care,” said Ron Hunter, who said he struggled to move Thursday morning because of pain and knee swelling. “It doesn’t even matter.”

Roughly an hour later, with Georgia State’s pep band members lining the wall of the tunnel leading to the team bus, a manager paraded that stool through the madness to chants of “*Chair! Chair! Chair!*”

Like everything else Thursday involving Ron Hunter, it was an unconventional celebration but a satisfying one nonetheless.

“There are a lot of coaches that get to the (Round of 32) or the Final Four, but when you get to do it with your son and you can watch your son hit a halfcourt shot, I can’t tell you how I feel inside,” Hunter said. “It’s unbelievable. I wish every dad in America could have that opportunity, what I just experienced with my son.”

CELEB PICK ‘EM

Refaeli: Danica could be a model

Greg Presto

@GregPresto
USA TODAY Sports



GETTY IMAGES FOR MERCEDES-BENZ

Bar Refaeli likes watching hoops.

Model Bar Refaeli has been gracing ad and magazine pages for seemingly forever, but the Israeli-born model is only 29. Since first appearing in the *Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit Issue in 2007, she appeared on its cover in 2009 and in a Super Bowl ad.

While promoting Hublot watches, Refaeli spoke with For the Win about basketball, modeling and brackets. Her Final Four? All four No. 1 seeds.

Q: What was your favorite sport growing up?

A: Beating my brother up. What kind of sports? Volleyball, but not professional; it was just for fun. In Israel, we go to the beach, so surfing, paddle boarding, kite surfing, that sort of stuff. To watch now? Basketball.

Q: If we created a bracket for models and you’re a No. 1 seed, who are the other three?

A: I don’t think there are only four spots. I think that is what is beautiful about the fashion industry and models in particular is that there is all kinds of girls and so many. But if you twist my arm, I’ll have to say I always looked up to Kate Moss, Gisele (Bundchen), and Cindy (Crawford).

Q: For last year’s GoDaddy Super Bowl ad, how did they present this idea to you, and how did you get that spot?

A: It’s funny, because I didn’t understand the importance of a Super Bowl ad before that. I just, they sent me a script and I laughed. I really laughed, and my agency told me it is also a big deal

and very important. So I said of course. Anything that allows me to make fun of myself, I’ll do.

Q: In the modeling industry, what are the perks behind the scenes?

A: I can never complain of being taken to the Maldives or Jamaica for free. That’s kind of a nice perk. And I get a lot of swimsuits delivered to me all the time, so it’s kind of fun. My boyfriend always wonders how come my bikini drawer is filled, like really overloaded with bikinis, and I always tell them, “I don’t spend that much money, they send them to me.”

Q: What famous athletes would make a good model?

A: Danica Patrick. I think she’s amazing. I worked with a few on one of the issues for *Sports Illustrated*, so Chris Paul was really, really cool. I was more excited than he was.

Q: Hosting the *X Factor*, what was that like?

A: I did one season for *X Factor* in Israel, and I was the host. We’re shooting a second season now. It’s a big pleasure for me. It’s nice to do something else than being in front of a camera and not talking. It’s nice to be in front of a live audience — prime-time TV, all these viewers. If you mess it up there is no way to edit; you know there’s no Photoshop.

UConn women impress Ziering

Greg Presto

@GregPresto
USA TODAY Sports



GREGG DEGUIRE, WIREIMAGE

Ian Ziering stars in “Sharknado 3.”

If you ask Ian Ziering whether it’s OK to skip work — or school — to watch the NCAA tournament, he sounds a lot like his most famous character, *Beverly Hills, 90210*’s Steve Sanders: “When in doubt, look about; better to cheat than repeat,” he says. “If I needed to do something in school that didn’t include school, I’d come down with this horrible cold, and I couldn’t even talk.”

Today, Ziering is becoming more known for wielding a chainsaw than hanging by the beach with Brandon Walsh. He’ll star in the third edition of the *Sharknado* TV movie series this year and has launched an athletic-clothing line, Chainsaw Brands, based on his character’s penchant for slicing up sharks. Without any sharks in the field of 68, Ziering chose Villanova as the winner of the Big Dance as he sat down for For the Win’s Celeb Pick ‘Em series.

Q: Are you following any one team specifically?

A: The women’s team at University of Connecticut. They’re awesome.

Q: What are you like competitively? Do you talk a lot of smack?

A: I wasn’t always the best athlete on the court, so I kind of stayed away from the drama. But when I’m in the stands, when I’m watching, I talk a lot of smack. ... I’ll give mad props if somebody does something on the court or something that is amazing.

Q: If you could add three athletes to *Sharknado*, who would they be?

A: Michael Jordan. He’s just an all-around amazing athlete, and

who wouldn’t want to be close to Michael Jordan just to hang out with Michael Jordan? Charles Barkley, because that guy just cracks me up. Johnny Damon. Great guy who I got to know on *Celebrity Apprentice*. And he’s good with a bat. That would come in very handy in *Sharknado*.

Q: How did the *Celebrity Apprentice* appearance come about?

A: When they first approached me, it was an automatic “yes.” I mean, that’s a financial vehicle that can help you drive a fortune to a charity and also raise awareness, so there wasn’t really a second thought to not do it. If I look at my celebrity-like capital, I think spending it on doing good things for other people is really the best way to spend it. I didn’t realize it would be the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my entire life. It was physically grueling, mentally challenging, and after I was done it took me four or five weeks to decompress.

Q: Comments on Donald Trump’s hair?

A: He has his own little *Sharknado* up there, but it’s his hair.

All times Eastern



Villanova's Phil Booth, right, loses control of the ball while teammate Josh Hart, left, regains possession against Lafayette.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Capsule previews for today's four NCAA second-round games in Columbus, Ohio

No. 5 West Virginia (23-9) vs. No. 12 Buffalo (23-9)

Time, TV: 2:10 p.m. ET, TNT
Why West Virginia will win: The Mountaineers, seeded fifth in the Midwest, survived the rugged Big 12 schedule — beating Kansas and Oklahoma — and their frenetic full-court pressure could present problems. West Virginia leads the nation in steals (10.9 a game). Though it lost three of its last four games, it was without leading scorer Juwan Staten and senior guard Gary Browne; both should play.
Why Buffalo will win: Led by junior forward Justin Moss, the Mid-American Conference's player of the year, the Bulls are a trendy upset pick in their tournament debut. They shouldn't be intimidated after playing Kentucky and Wisconsin in the regular season. The Bulls led both at halftime before losing.

No. 4 Maryland (27-6) vs. No. 13 Valparaiso (28-5)

Time, TV: 4:40 p.m. ET, TNT
Why Maryland will win: Led by senior guard Dez Wells (15.4 points, 5.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists), the Midwest's fourth seed is among the nation's hottest teams. The Terrapins finished second in the Big Ten and had seven consecutive wins before a close loss to Michigan State in the conference tournament. They're capable of alarming lapses, but when they've played well — as in beating Wisconsin and Iowa State — the Terps have been really good.
Why Valparaiso will win: The Crusaders could have a size advantage; at times, they'll put four players 6-7 or taller on the floor at the same time. They are led by sophomore forward Alec Peters (16.7-point average). Valpo's calling card is defense; it ranks 18th nationally in scoring defense (59.3-point average) and eighth in field goal percentage defense (38.0%).

No. 3 Oklahoma (22-10) vs. No. 14 Albany (24-9)

Time, TV: 7:27 p.m. ET, truTV
Why Oklahoma will win: While junior guard Buddy Hield (17.5-point average), the Big 12's player of the year, is capable of scoring in bunches, the East's No. 3 seed has multiple offensive options. All five starters average at least 9.2 points. But defense propels the Sooners. Opponents average 38.5% from the field and 62.8 points.
Why Albany will win: Oklahoma prefers a fast pace; Albany likes it slow. If the Great Danes can control the tempo, they'll have a decent shot.

No. 6 Providence (22-11) vs. No. 11 Dayton (26-8)

Time, TV: 9:57 p.m. ET, truTV
Why Providence will win: Led by all-Big East players Kris Dunn and LaDontae Henton, the East's sixth seed was seasoned by a tough non-conference schedule, including Kentucky (58-38 loss) and Notre Dame (75-74 win). The Friars have a size advantage against Dayton, including 7-foot shot-blocker Carson Desrosiers.
Why Dayton will win: Fresh off a dramatic 56-55 win against Boise State in the First Four — in its own arena — 11th-seeded Dayton traveled 70 miles east to play another quasi-home game. The Flyers, who finished Wednesday's win on a 10-2 run, have seven scholarship players — none taller than 6-6.

George Schroeder

Capsule previews for today's four NCAA second-round games in Charlotte:

No. 7 Michigan State (23-11) vs. No. 10 Georgia (21-11)

Time, TV: 12:40 p.m. ET, truTV
Why Michigan State will win: The Spartans (No. 7 in the East) are playing some of their best basketball of the season coming off a run to the Big Ten final, ultimately bowing to Wisconsin in overtime. Branden Dawson (12 points per game, 9.1 rebounds per game) played with a consistency he lacked for much of the season.
Why Georgia will win: The Bulldogs will need a banner day from senior forward Marcus Thornton, who leads his team in points (12.3 per game) and rebounds (7.2 per game). Thornton is also Georgia's best defender, earning all-Southeastern Conference honors.

No. 2 Virginia (29-3) vs. No. 15 Belmont (22-10)

Time, TV: 3:10 p.m. ET, truTV
Why Virginia will win: The Cavaliers (No. 2 in the East) rolled to the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season crown with lockdown defense. They rank first nationally in scoring defense at 50.8 points per game, the third-lowest average since the shot-clock era began in 1986. Forward Darion Atkins, the ACC defensive player of the year, leads the way. All-ACC guard Malcolm Brogdon captains the offense, averaging 13.9 points and 3.9 rebounds.
Why Belmont will win: To spark the upset, Belmont will need huge contributions from Craig Bradshaw (18.1 points, 3.2 assists per game) and Evan Bradds (14.3 points, 7.2 rebounds per game).

No. 1 Duke (29-4) vs. No. 15 Robert Morris (20-14)

Time, TV: 7:10 p.m. ET, CBS
Why Duke will win: The Colonials will have no answer down low for Duke (South No. 1) freshman center Jahliil Okafor, the likely player of the year. He (17.7 points, 9.0 rebounds per game) has 12 20-point games and 11 double-doubles. Okafor will get plenty of help from guard Quinn Cook (15.7 ppg, 2.7 apg) and forward Justise Winslow (12.3 ppg, 5.9 rpg).
Why Robert Morris will win: The Colonials have flirted with upsets before. In 2010 they gave No. 2 Villanova all it could handle before falling in overtime 73-70. And how can you not respect a guy name Lucky? Lucky Jones scored 21 in the First Four win against North Florida. Backcourt mate Rodney Pryor is also dangerous. He had 20 against UNF.

No. 8 San Diego State (26-9) vs. No. 9 St. John's (21-11)

Time, TV: 9:40 p.m. ET, CBS
Why San Diego State will win: Experience. The Aztecs have three fifth-year seniors: J.J. O'Brien, Dwayne Polee II and Aqeel Quinn. San Diego State gets it done with defense. It has held 21 opponents at or below 40% field goal shooting.
Why St. John's will win: St. John's can shoot the ball with the best of them. St. John's has a pair of NBA-caliber guards in D'Angelo Harrison (17.5 ppg, 5.4 rpg) and Sir'Dominic Pointer (13.5 ppg, 7.6 rpg). If this game is in the 70s, that favors the Johnnies. They are 14-2 in such contests.

Gerry Ahern

Capsule previews for today's four NCAA second-round games in Omaha:

No. 2 Kansas (26-8) vs. No. 15 New Mexico State (23-10)

Time, TV: 12:15 p.m. ET, CBS
Why Kansas will win: This is not a vintage Kansas team, but this is still Kansas, a No. 2 seed in the Midwest. After missing two games because of a knee injury, Perry Ellis is back to playing like an all-Big 12 honoree. Wayne Selden Jr. is starting to excel, having scored back-to-back 20-plus point games in the Big 12 tournament.
Why New Mexico State will win: The Aggies are making their fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament under coach Marvin Menzies. They have six players who average 8.1 points or better. They rank sixth in three-point percentage defense. If the Jayhawks are lackadaisical, the Aggies can win.

No. 7 Wichita State (28-4) vs. No. 10 Indiana (20-13)

Time, TV: 2:45 p.m. ET, CBS
Why Wichita State will win: Coach Gregg Marshall likes his team to play angry, and the Shockers have plenty of reason to play with a chip on their shoulder after receiving a No. 7 seed in the Midwest. Rob Baker and Fred VanVleet are two of the nation's best players. Tekele Cotton is a two-time Missouri Valley Conference defensive player of the year.
Why Indiana will win: If the Hoosiers are hot from beyond the arc, they can win. They made a school-record 308 three-pointers, which ranks fifth in Big Ten history. They led the conference in shooting 40.3% from three-point range. They could use a big game from Yogi Ferrell, who leads all Big Ten juniors in career scoring, assists and made threes.

No. 8 Oregon (25-9) vs. No. 9 Oklahoma State (18-13)

Time, TV: 6:50 p.m. ET, TBS
Why Oregon will win: The Ducks won 11 of their last 13 games to earn the No. 8 seed in the West. Senior Joseph Young, the Pac-12 player of the year, is a terrific scorer who could take over the game. The Ducks will get to the free throw line, where they make 76.7% of their shots, the nation's seventh-highest mark.
Why Oklahoma State will win: The Cowboys have lost six of seven games but are battle-tested from playing in the nation's strongest league. They need big games from Le'Bryan Nash, who ranks second in the Big 12 in scoring, and Phil Forte, who averaged 17.6 points in their 18 wins.

No. 1 Wisconsin (31-3) vs. No. 16 Coastal Carolina (24-9)

Time, TV: 9:20 p.m. ET, TBS
Why Wisconsin will win: The Badgers, the top seed in the West, boast the nation's most efficient offense. They lead the nation in fewest fouls, fewest turnovers and fewest opposing free throw attempts per game. Bronson Koenig has played well since taking over at the point.
Why Coastal Carolina will win: The Chanticleers are coached by Cliff Ellis, who reached the Sweet 16 with Clemson and Auburn. They led the Big South in scoring defense and scoring margin.

Eric Prisbell

Capsule previews for today's four NCAA second-round games in Seattle:

No. 5 Northern Iowa (30-3) vs. No. 12 Wyoming (25-9)

Time, TV: 1:40 p.m. ET, TBS
Why Northern Iowa will win: Northern Iowa, No. 5 seed in the East, will win because that's what it does. Thirty times, including wins vs. Iowa and Wichita State. The Panthers run their offense through post man Seth Tuttle, who averages 15.3 points and 6.8 rebounds. The defense is tough, allowing 54.1 points per game.
Why Wyoming will win: The Cowboys got hot in the Mountain West tournament and upset Boise State and San Diego State to win the conference's automatic bid. They can advance if Larry Nance Jr. shines. A 6-8 forward and son of the former NBA player of the same name, he averages 16.1 points.

No. 4 Louisville (24-8) vs. No. 13 UC-Irvine (21-12)

Time, TV: 4:10 p.m. ET, TBS
Why Louisville will win: Louisville, the No. 4 seed in the East, will win if enough guys step up offensively to replace dismissed guard Chris Jones, who averaged 13.7 points and a team-high 3.6 assists. The Cardinals can win anything close because of a tenacious defense.
Why UC-Irvine will win: Because first time is the charm? The Anteaters have never played in the NCAA tournament. Because they are the tallest team in the field? Irvine's Mamadou Ndiaye, who is from Senegal, is the tallest player in Division I at 7-6. The Anteaters also have a 7-2 player, Ioannis Dimakopoulos. But 6-8 forward Will Davis II is their best player.

No. 7 Iowa (21-11) vs. No. 10 Davidson (24-7)

Time, TV: 7:30 p.m. ET, TNT
Why Iowa will win: The Hawkeyes, the No. 7 seed in the South, lost to Penn State in the Big Ten tournament. Before that, they won six in a row. Key to their offense is versatile forward Aaron White, the only player in the country to average more than 15 points and seven rebounds while shooting better than 50% from the field and 80% from the foul line.
Why Davidson will win: Davidson has the favored nickname — Wildcats — same as tournament favorites Kentucky and Arizona. Like the other Wildcats, they can score, averaging more than 80 points and more than 10 made three-pointers a game. They're also in the top five in assists.

No. 2 Gonzaga (32-2) vs. No. 15 North Dakota State (23-9)

Time, TV: 9:50 p.m. ET, TNT
Why Gonzaga will win: Gonzaga, the No. 2 seed in the South, has one of its best tournament teams as it tries to break through to its first Final Four. The Bulldogs can overpower some teams with 7-1 Przemek Karnowski and 6-10 forward Kyle Wiltjer combining for nearly 28 points and 12 rebounds. The guards, led by Kevin Pangos, are good, too.
Why North Dakota State will win: The Bison hope for déjà vu, as last year they upset Oklahoma in the Round of 64, with guard Lawrence Alexander pouring in 28 points against the Sooners. He is back, and the senior is averaging 18.9 shots. He has made 100 three-pointers in 32 games.

David Leon Moore

UCLA eliminates SMU on late goaltending call

Nicole Auerbach

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USA TODAY Sports

LOUISVILLE Yanick Moreira took all the blame and then broke down.
“It's all my fault,” the Southern Methodist center said after the Mustangs' 60-59 loss to UCLA. “I should have let the ball hit the rim. I take the blame on myself. I shouldn't have made that mistake.
“As a senior,” he added, his voice cracking, “you can't make those mistakes at the end of the game.”
Fifteen minutes had passed since a goaltending call cost SMU its NCAA tournament opener Thursday, and the whistle had been blown on Moreira.
To him, it didn't matter that the call immediately became a lightning rod of debate across the nation, with many college basketball viewers thinking Bryce Alford's shot did not seem close enough to falling to warrant a goaltending call.
The rule says the shot must be on its downward flight and have the possibility, while in flight, of entering the basket. Also, goaltending is not reviewable. Officials checked the monitor to see if Alford's shot was a two- or three-point attempt and then added three to UCLA's score. Those

were the Bruins' final points — a game-winning goaltend.
“I had a pretty good look at it because I shot it,” Alford said. “I saw (UCLA forward) Kevon (Looney) and another player going after it, and I was confused because he (Moreira) went up and grabbed it on its way to the rim. I don't know if it would have gone in or not, but he definitely grabbed it on the way.”
Some thought the 11th-seeded Bruins didn't deserve to make the field. Now, to many, it doesn't look like they deserved to make the next round — based on a shot that, depending on the angle on the video, might not have had a chance of going in.
“I never saw a game end like that,” said SMU's Larry Brown, who has been coaching since 1965.
UCLA coach Steve Alford expressed sympathy for SMU's painful NCAA tournament exit, but he obviously was excited about the win and more proud of his team for weathering a 19-0 second-half Mustangs run before rallying.
“That's impressive for a young group to hang in there, learn lessons throughout the season and find a way to win and execute exactly what the coaches drew up,” Alford deadpanned. “Throw it towards the rim and hope for a goaltending. That's perfect execution.”

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| In re: NEW ENGLAND COMPOUNDING PHARMACY, INC., Debtor. | Chapter 11 Case No. 12-19882-HJB |
| NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF LIQUIDATION AND RELATED OBJECTION DEADLINE | |
| <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 3, 2014, Paul D. Moore, the chapter 11 trustee of New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. d/b/a New England Compounding Center ("NECC" or the "Debtor"), and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of NECC (together, the "Plan Proponents") filed the <i>Joint Motion of Chapter 11 Trustee and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Order (I) Approving the Plan Proponents' Disclosure Statement, (II) Approving Solicitation and Notice Procedures with Respect to Confirmation of the Plan Proponents' Joint Plan of Reorganization, (III) Approving the Form of Various Ballots and Notices in Connection Therewith, (IV) Scheduling Certain Dates with Respect Thereto, and (V) Granting Related Relief</i> (the "DS Motion"), seeking approval of the Disclosure Statement (as amended, the "Disclosure Statement") for the First Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of NECC (as amended, the "Plan").</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that on March 3, 2015, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts (the "Bankruptcy Court") entered an order granting the DS Motion (the "DS Approval Order"), which, among other things, approved the Disclosure Statement and authorized the Plan Proponents to begin soliciting votes for confirmation of the Plan in accordance with the terms of the DS Approval Order.</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Bankruptcy Court will hold a hearing on May 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Henry J. Boroff to consider confirmation of the Plan. The deadline for filing objections to confirmation of the Plan is May 5, 2015, by which time any and all objections must have been filed electronically or received by the clerk of the Bankruptcy Court.</p> <p>YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PLAN. THE PLAN CONTAINS RELEASES AND INJUNCTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEBTOR, THE ESTATE REPRESENTATIVE(S) AND CERTAIN THIRD PARTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CERTAIN INSIDERS OF NECC AND THE THIRD PARTIES MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULES 1.121 AND 1.167 TO THE PLAN AND SECTION 3.4 TO THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (COLLECTIVELY, THE "RELEASED PARTIES"). IF THE PLAN IS CONFIRMED, SUCH RELEASES AND INJUNCTIONS WILL BAR ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES FROM ASSERTING AGAINST THE RELEASED PARTIES ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DEBTS, OBLIGATIONS, DEMANDS, LIABILITIES, SUITS, JUDGMENTS, DAMAGES, RIGHTS AND CAUSES OF ACTION ARISING FROM ACTS OR OMISSIONS IN ANY WAY RELATED TO NECC OR THE DRUGS IT PRODUCED. YOU SHOULD READ CAREFULLY SECTIONS 10.05 AND 10.06 OF THE PLAN, SCHEDULES 1.121 AND 1.167 TO THE PLAN, AND SECTIONS 3.4, 12.5, AND 12.6 OF THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, AND DISCUSS THE PLAN AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH YOUR ATTORNEY, IF YOU HAVE ONE (IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ATTORNEY, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT ONE).</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you can obtain copies of the Plan and Disclosure Statement by accessing the website maintained by the Debtor's claims and noticing agent, Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc. at www.donlinrecano.com/necp. Copies of the Plan and the Disclosure Statement may also be obtained by mail, free of charge, upon written request made to Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc. at Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc., P.O. Box 2034, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156-0701 or upon calling Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc. at (212) 771-1128.</p> | |
| Dated: March 6, 2015 | |

NCAA TOURNAMENT

OKAFOR
HAS NBA
ON MIND

Tournament could raise his draft stock

Gerry Ahern

@USATGerryAhern
USA TODAY Sports

CHARLOTTE Duke freshman phenom Jahlil Okafor is embarking on the latest new experience of his burgeoning basketball career — his first NCAA tournament.

It also will likely be his last. Okafor, projected as a high lottery pick in the 2015 NBA draft, will lead the top-seeded Blue Devils in a South Region second-round game against Robert Morris today at Time Warner Cable Arena.

The expected one-and-done star said he longed for this moment as a child in Chicago, well before he became a McDonald's All-American at Whitney Young High School.

"All my focus is on the tournament," Okafor said Thursday. "When I first decided I wanted to go to Duke University and play college basketball, I always imagined the opportunity to win the national championship."

Just as long, maybe longer, he has dreamed of the chance to play in the NBA. The 6-10, 265-pounder has shown plenty in his one season on Tobacco Road — he leads the Blue Devils in scoring (17.7 points) and rebounding (9.0).

He became the first freshman to be named Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year. He is expected to compete with Wisconsin senior Frank Kaminsky for national player of the year.

A deep NCAA tournament run, maybe even that dreamy national crown, could only add to his fleeting, flashy collegiate legacy. Still, coach Mike Krzyzewski thinks we have yet to see the best of his big man.

"He's got a lot more growth ahead of him," Krzyzewski said. "The main thing for Jah is he's gotten better as the season's gone along."

"The only thing that set him

back was the injury in the first North Carolina game (Feb. 18). That stopped some of his growth because he's had to compensate. Since then, he's pretty much played at less than 100%."

The nagging ankle problem limited Okafor's mobility and hindered his play, particularly on the defensive end. Back at full speed for the first time in a month, can he vault himself into the undisputed No. 1 slot in the draft with some March magic?

USA TODAY Sports talked to a pair of NBA executives about Okafor, the potential impact on his stock by his play in the tournament and where they see the

“(Okafor has) got a lot more growth ahead of him. ... He’s gotten better as the season’s gone along

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski

center being selected. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because NBA rules prohibit officials from commenting publicly on active college players.

Kentucky forward Karl-Anthony Towns and guard Emmanuel Mudiay, who decided to turn pro and play in China rather than attend SMU, are other potential No. 1 picks.

"I think Towns is the better prospect both short and long term," one Eastern Conference executive said. "Okafor is really a below-average defender, but I still think he is in the top two prospects."

"If NBA people get caught up in guys having good college tournaments to help their stock, then you're in trouble."

Another Eastern Conference



BOB DONNAN, USA TODAY SPORTS

executive succinctly broke down Okafor's strengths and weaknesses. He added that the tournament could be an opportunity to provide some separation from other prospects.

"He has great footwork and hands, and his court vision is fantastic," the executive said. "He needs to improve his condition-

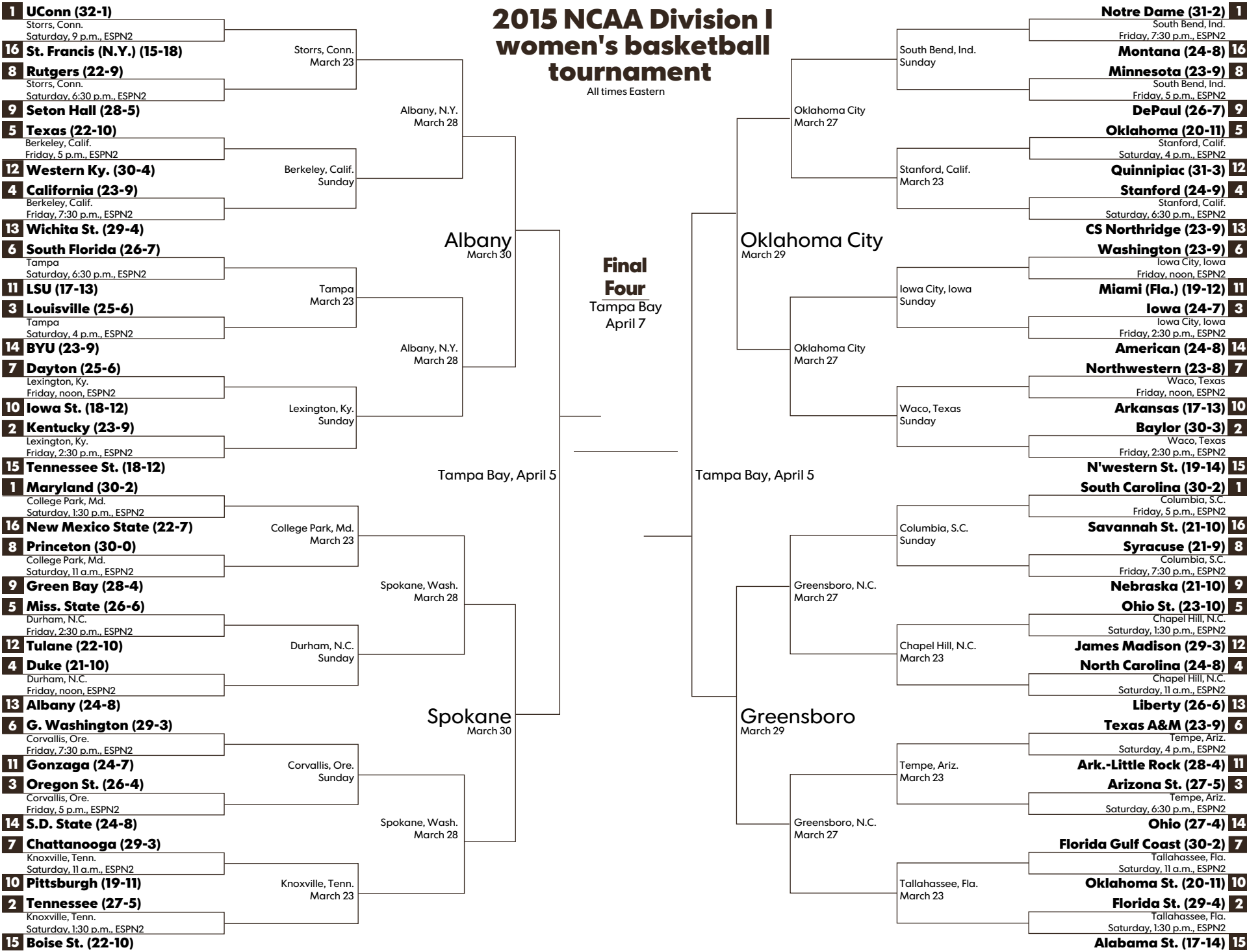
ing and become more of a presence defensively."

So who will be the top pick? Okafor? Towns? Mudiay?

"It will be studied very closely," the second executive said.

Don't be surprised if NBA talent evaluators go to school on the tournament to decide *this* race to be No. 1.

“All my focus is on the tournament,” says Duke center Jahlil Okafor, expected to be a lottery pick in the NBA draft.



SPORTS ON TV

TODAY

BOXING: Lightweights, Jamie Kavanagh vs. Miguel Zamudio; featherweights, Ronny Rios vs. Sergio Frias; super welterweights, Alfonso Gomez vs. Yoshihiro Kamegai, in Indio, Calif. (Fox Sports 1, 11 p.m.)

COLLEGE WRESTLING: NCAA Division I championships, semifinals, in St. Louis (ESPN, 8 p.m.)

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL: **NCAA tournament**, second round, times and networks, 7C; **NIT**, second round, teams and sites TBD (ESPNU, 9:30 p.m.)

COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: Hockey East Tournament, semifinals, teams TBD, in Boston (NBC Sports, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.)

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NCAA tournament, first round, teams and sites, women's bracket, 8C

GOLF: PGA Tour, Arnold Palmer Invitational, second round, in Orlando (Golf Channel, 2 p.m.); LPGA, Founders Cup, second round, in Phoenix (Golf Chan-

nel, 6 p.m.); Champions Tour, Conquistadores Classic, first round, in Tucson (Golf Channel, 8 p.m., same-day tape) **MOTOR SPORTS:** NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, Auto Club 400, in Fontana, Calif., practice (Fox Sports 1, 3 p.m.); qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 7:30 p.m.); NASCAR Xfinity Series, practice for Drive4Clots.com 300, in Fontana, Calif. (Fox Sports 1, 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.) **SOCCER:** UEFA Champions League, quarterfinals draw, in Nyon, Switzerland (Fox Sports 1, 7 a.m.) **TENNIS:** BNP Paribas Open, in Indian Wells, Calif., men's quarterfinal (ESPN, 3 p.m.); women's semifinal (ESPN2, 11 p.m.)

SATURDAY

COLLEGE BASEBALL: Texas Tech at Oklahoma (Fox Sports Net, 3 p.m.)

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS: Big 12 Conference, women's championship, in Norman, Okla. (Fox Sports Net, 6 p.m.)

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL: **NCAA tournament**, third round,

teams and sites, TBD, men's bracket, 6C; **NIT**, second round, teams and sites TBD (ESPN, 11 a.m.)

COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: Hockey East tournament, championship (NBC Sports, 7 p.m.)

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NCAA tournament, first round, teams and sites, women's bracket, 8C

COLLEGE WRESTLING: NCAA Division I championships, finals, (ESPN, 8 p.m.)

GOLF: PGA Tour, Arnold Palmer Invitational, third round (Golf Channel, 12:30 p.m., and NBC, 2:30 p.m.); Champions Tour, Conquistadores Classic, second round (Golf Channel, 5 p.m.); LPGA, Founders Cup, third round (Golf Channel, 7 p.m.)

MOTOR SPORTS: United SportsCar Championship, 12 Hours of Sebring (Fla.), start of race (Fox Sports 1, 10:30 a.m.); NASCAR Xfinity Series, Drive4Clots.com 300, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 12:30 p.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 4 p.m.); NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, practice for Auto Club 400 (Fox Sports

1, 2:30 p.m.); AMA Supercross, in Detroit (Fox Sports 1, 7 p.m.)

SOCCER: English Premier League, West Bromwich at Manchester City (NBC Sports, 8:40 a.m.), Arsenal at Newcastle United (NBC Sports, 10:55 a.m.), Sunderland at West Ham (NBC Sports, 1:25 p.m.)

TENNIS: BNP Paribas Open, men's semifinals (ESPN, 2 p.m.)

SUNDAY

BULL RIDING: Ty Murray Invitational, in Albuquerque (CBS Sports, 4 p.m.)

COLLEGE BASEBALL: Oklahoma State at TCU (Fox Sports 1, 3 p.m.)

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL: **NCAA tournament**, third round, teams and sites, TBD, men's bracket, 6C; **NIT**, second round, teams and sites TBD (ESPN, 11 a.m., and ESPNU, 7:30 p.m.)

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NCAA tournament, second round, teams and sites, women's bracket, 8C

GOLF: PGA Tour, Arnold Palmer Invita-

tional, final round (Golf Channel, 12:30 p.m., and NBC, 2:30 p.m.); Champions Tour, Conquistadores Classic, final round (Golf Channel, 5 p.m.); LPGA, Founders Cup, final round (Golf Channel, 7 p.m.)

MOTOR SPORTS: NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, Auto Club 400 (Fox, 3:30 p.m.)

NHL: St. Louis at Detroit (NBC, noon); Anaheim at New York Rangers (NBC Sports, 7:30 p.m.)

SOCCER: English Premier League, Manchester United at Liverpool (NBC Sports, 9:25 a.m.), Chelsea at Hull City (NBC Sports, 11:55 a.m.); MLS, D.C. United at New York (ESPN2, 5 p.m.); Chicago at San Jose (Fox Sports 1, 7 p.m.)

TENNIS: BNP Paribas Open, men's and women's championships (ESPN, 2 p.m.)

WINTER SPORTS: Curling, World Women's Championship, in Sapporo, Japan (NBC Sports, 5 p.m., same-day tape)

Note: Times Eastern

FOR THE RECORD

DEALS

Baseball

Commissioner's Office: Suspended **New York Yankees** P Moises Cedeño 72 games for violating the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

► American League

Houston Astros: Announced the retirement of assistant trainer Rex Jones, effective at the end of the season.

► National League

Chicago Cubs: Optioned P C.J. Edwards to Iowa (PCL).

Los Angeles Dodgers: Reassigned P Ben Rowen to minor league camp.

Milwaukee Brewers: Exercised their 2016 option on manager Ron Roenicke.

New York Mets: Optioned P Akeel Morris to Las Vegas (AAA).

Pittsburgh Pirates: Optioned IF Alen Hanson, P Casey Sadler and P Jameson Taillon to Indianapolis (AAA) and OF Willy Garcia to Altoona (AA). Reassigned P Collin Balester, P Jeremy Bleich, IF Gift Ngoepe and OF Mel Rojas Jr. to minor league camp.

Washington Nationals: Optioned P Matt Grace and C Dan Butler to Syracuse (AAA) and IF Wilmer Difo to Potomac (A).

Basketball

► National Basketball Association

NBA: Fined **Washington Wizards** C Marcin Gortat \$5,000 for a second violation of the league's anti-flopping rules.

Minnesota Timberwolves: Signed G Sean Kilpatrick to a 10-day contract.

New York Knicks: Signed G Ricky Ledo to a 10-day knick.

Football

► National Football League

Atlanta Falcons: Signed TE Jacob Tamme.

Buffalo Bills: Signed TE Charles Clay to a five-year contract.

Chicago Bears: Signed TE Dante Rosario to a one-year contract.

Cincinnati Bengals: Signed CB Brandon Ghee. Re-signed DT Devon Still.

Dallas Cowboys: Signed FB Ray Agnew.

Denver Broncos: Agreed to terms with LB Reggie Walker on a one-year contract.

Detroit Lions: Re-signed CB Rashean Mathis to a two-year contract.

Indianapolis Colts: Signed T Demarco Cox.

Jacksonville Jaguars: Claimed RB Bernard Pierce off waivers from Baltimore.

Miami Dolphins: Signed OL J.D. Walton to a one-year contract.

Minnesota Vikings: Signed RB DuJuan Harris.

New York Giants: Re-signed TE Daniel Fells.

New York Jets: Signed OL James Brewer to a one-year contract.

San Diego Chargers: Signed CB Patrick Robinson to a one-year contract.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Signed CB Sterling Moore.

Tennessee Titans: Agreed to terms with T Byron Stingale on a multi-year contract. Named Tom Kanavy assistant to the strength and conditioning coach, Brooke Ellenberger vice president of ticketing and Amber Harding social media coordinator. Promoted Brent Akers to director of team operations and Shereme Siewnarine to director of finance.

Washington Redskins: Re-signed QB Colt McCoy.

Hockey

► National Hockey League

Toronto Maple Leafs: Recalled F Denver Manderson and F Patrick Watling from Orlando (ECHL).

Winnipeg Jets: Agreed to terms with D Jan Kostalek on a three-year, two-way, entry-level contract

Soccer

► Major League Soccer

Seattle Sounders: Signed D Nick Miele and F Qudus Lawal.

College

Holy Cross: Named Bill Carmody men's basketball coach.

Penn State: Signed men's basketball coach Pat Chambers to a two-year contract extension through 2018-19.

NBA

Holy Cross: Named Bill Carmody men's basketball coach.

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| Southwest | W | L | Pct | GB | Streak |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|--------|
| x-Atlanta | 23 | 15 | .772 | | L-1 |
| Washington | 40 | 28 | .588 | 13 | W-5 |
| Miami | 31 | 36 | .463 | 21½ | W-2 |
| Charlotte | 29 | 37 | .439 | 23 | L-2 |
| Orlando | 21 | 49 | .300 | 33 | L-6 |

| Central | W | L | Pct | GB | Streak |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|--------|
| Cleveland | 44 | 26 | .629 | — | W-1 |
| Chicago | 42 | 28 | .594 | 2½ | W-1 |
| Milwaukee | 34 | 34 | .500 | 9 | L-4 |
| Indiana | 30 | 37 | .448 | 12½ | L-3 |
| Detroit | 24 | 44 | .353 | 19 | L-1 |

| West | W | L | Pct | GB | Streak |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|--------|
| Memphis | 47 | 21 | .691 | — | L-1 |
| Houston | 45 | 22 | .672 | 1½ | W-2 |
| Dallas | 45 | 25 | .638 | 3½ | W-3 |
| San Antonio | 42 | 25 | .627 | 4½ | W-1 |
| New Orleans | 37 | 30 | .552 | 9½ | W-1 |

| Northwest | W | L | Pct | GB | Streak |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|--------|
| Portland | 44 | 22 | .667 | — | L-2 |
| Oklahoma City | 38 | 30 | .559 | 7 | W-1 |
| Utah | 30 | 37 | .448 | 14½ | L-1 |
| Denver | 26 | 42 | .382 | 19 | L-4 |

| Pacific | W | L | Pct | GB | Streak |
|----------------|----|----|------|-----|--------|
| x-Golden State | 54 | 13 | .806 | — | W-3 |
| L.A. Clippers | 44 | 25 | .638 | 11 | W-2 |
| Phoenix | 35 | 33 | .515 | 19½ | W-1 |
| Sacramento | 22 | 45 | .328 | 32 | L-4 |
| L.A. Lakers | 17 | 49 | .258 | 36½ | L-3 |

Thursday's games

Minnesota 95, New York 92

Denver at Houston

New Orleans at Phoenix

Utah at L.A. Lakers

Friday's games

Chicago at Detroit, 7:30

Portland at Orlando, 7

Denver at Miami, 7:30

Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 7:30

Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30

Toronto at Chicago, 8

Atlanta at Oklahoma City, 8

Memphis at Dallas, 8:30

Boston at San Antonio, 8:30

Charlotte at Sacramento, 10

New Orleans at Golden State, 10:30

Washington at L.A. Clippers, 10:30

Saturday's games

Brooklyn at Indiana, 7

Chicago at Detroit, 7:30

Phoenix at Houston, 8

Portland at Memphis, 8

Utah at Golden State, 10:30

Wednesday's games

Philadelphia 94, Detroit 83

BASKETBALL

National Invitation Tournament

First round — Wednesday

Arizona State 68, Connecticut 61

Detroit 69, San Diego 63

Old Dominion 65, Charleston Southern 56

Richmond 84, St. Francis Brooklyn 74

Illinois State 69, Green Bay 56

Vanderbilt 75, Saint Mary's 64

South Dakota State 86, Colorado State 76

Second round — March 20-23

Texas Tech vs. Washington

Louisiana Tech vs. Texas A&M

Richmond vs. Arizona State

Alabama vs. Miami (Fla.)

South Dakota State vs. Vanderbilt

Rhode Island vs. Stanford

Murray State vs. Tulsa

Illinois State vs. Old Dominion

Collegianside.com Tournament

First round — Wednesday

High Point 70, Maryland-Eastern Shore 64

Canisius 87, Dartmouth 72

Texas A&M-C, Christl 75, Fla. Gulf Coast 69

Cleveland State vs. Western Michigan 57

Kent State 68, Middle Tennessee 56

Evansville 82, IPFW 77

San Houston State 87, N.C. Wilmington 71

Northern Arizona 75, Grand Canyon 70

Sacramento State 73, Portland 66

First round — Thursday

UT-Martin 1, Northwestern State 79

Second round — Friday or Saturday

College Basketball Invitational

First round — Tuesday

Loyola Chicago 62, Rider 59

First round — Wednesday

Mercer 72, Stony Brook 70

Vermont 85, Hofstra 81

Louisiana-Monroe 71, Eastern Michigan 67

Oral Roberts 91, UC Santa Barbara 87

Radford 78, Delaware State 57

Colorado 87, Gardner-Webb 78

Seattle 62, Pepperdine 45

Quarterfinals — Monday

Louisiana-Monroe at Mercer, 7

Radford at Vermont, 7

Oral Roberts at Loyola Chicago, 8

Colorado at Seattle, 10

Semifinals — Wednesday

Colorado/Seattle vs. Mercer/La.-Monroe

Radford/Vermont vs. Loyola/Oral Roberts

TODAY'S LINE

► Home teams in CAPS

College men's basketball

NCAA Tournament — Second Round

Today's games

| Favorite | Line | Underdog |
|-----------------|------|------------------|
| Virginia | 17 | Belmont |
| Michigan State | 5½ | Georgia |
| Duke | 2½ | Robert Morris |
| San Diego State | 4 | St. John's |
| West Virginia | 4½ | Buffalo |
| Maryland | 5 | Valparaiso |
| Oklahoma | 13 | Albany |
| Providence | 3 | Dayton |
| Kansas | 10½ | N. Mexico State |
| Wichita State | 5½ | Indiana |
| Wisconsin | 19½ | Coastal Carolina |
| Oklahoma State | 1½ | Oregon |
| Northern Iowa | 6½ | Wyoming |
| Louisville | 18 | UC Irvine |
| Gonzaga | 18 | North Dakota |
| Iowa | 2½ | Davidson |

National Basketball Assoc.

Today's games

| Favorite | Line | Underdog |
|---------------|------|-------------|
| PHILADELPHIA | 4½ | New York |
| Portland | 7½ | ORLANDO |
| MIAMI | 7½ | Denver |
| BROOKLYN | 5 | Milwaukee |
| CLEVELAND | 9½ | Indiana |
| OKLAHOMA CITY | 1½ | Atlanta |
| CHICAGO | 3½ | Toronto |
| DALLAS | 4½ | Memphis |
| SAN ANTONIO | 8½ | Boston |
| Charlotte | 4 | SACRAMENTO |
| GOLDEN STATE | 9½ | New Orleans |
| L.A. CLIPPERS | 7 | Washington |

National Hockey League

Today's games

| Favorite | Line | Underdog |
|------------|------|----------|
| New Jersey | -200 | BUFFALO |
| TAMPA BAY | -165 | Detroit |
| ANAHEIM | -200 | Colorado |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Cleveland 117, Brooklyn 92 | Toronto 105, Minnesota 100 |
| Miami 108, Portland 104 | Chicago 103, Indiana 86 |
| Oklahoma City 122, Boston 118 | Dallas 107, Orlando 102 |
| San Antonio 114, Milwaukee 103 | L.A. Clippers 116, Sacramento 105 |
| Golden State 114, Atlanta 95 | 1-3 0-0, 2, Sessions 2-2 2-7, Seraphin 2-3 |
| Washington 88, Utah 84 | |

WEDNESDAY'S LATE GAMES

WARRIORS 114, HAWKS 95

Atlanta 24 23 17 31 — 95
Golden State 28 31 24 31 — 114

Atlanta — Carroll 5-12 3-4 16, Millsap 6-14 2-2 16, Hford 4-18 0-0 8, Teague 4-8 4-12, Bazemore 1-6 3-4 5, Antic 0-1 3-3 3, Schroder 1-12 5-8, Mack 4-8 2-2 10, Jenkins 3-3 2-2 9, Brand 0-0 0-0 0, Muscala 2-

NCAA TOURNAMENT

COACHES TURN HOT SEATS LUKEWARM

Crean, Ford, Altman battle through adversity

Eric Prisbell
@EricPrisbell
USA TODAY Sports

OMAHA Tubby Smith calls it “The Dip.” It is that turning point in a coach’s tenure when the trajectory of the program, at least in terms of public perception, steers downward, whispers from critics turn to shouts and Internet rumors spread like wildfire.

When a coach’s name begins to circulate as one on the so-called hot seat, it’s hard to reverse course, much like swimming upstream. Smith felt he stayed too long at Minnesota and that, in the end, not even a victory in the 2013 NCAA tournament proved enough to save his job.

“Whenever you hear those rumblings, you have to make sure to keep your ear to the ground,” Smith, now at Texas Tech, told USA TODAY Sports. “In every organization, when you see things change, it’s already coming down, it may be too late. You’ve got to be proactive. You’ve got to know when to move.”

There are exceptions. And though it’s too early to assess the long-term health of their tenures, three coaches here — Indiana’s Tom Crean, Oregon’s Dana Altman and Oklahoma State’s Travis Ford — have managed to swim upstream in a sense. In the face of varying degrees of criticism and scrutiny, all have been able to stabilize their programs enough — at least temporarily — to reach the NCAA tournament.

At Indiana — one of the pre-eminent jobs in college basketball — Crean’s tenure looked much brighter after the Hoosiers lost a highly entertaining game against eventual national champion Kentucky in the 2012 Sweet 16. A highly anticipated following season came to a halt in the Sweet 16.

The team has not achieved similar success since, finishing 17-15 last season and narrowly making the tournament this year. Off-court issues early this season coupled with Crean’s persona, which has been painted as combative, further complicate his tenure.

Crean acknowledged this has been one of his most emotionally challenging seasons but added it also has been “one of the most gratifying and fun seasons.”

“Certainly adversity at the beginning is either going to pull you apart or pull you closer,” Crean



JASEN VINLOVE, USA TODAY SPORTS

Coach Tom Crean led Indiana, which plays Wichita State today, through adversity to a 20-13 record and says this has been “one of the most gratifying and fun seasons” of his career.

said. “And I don’t think there is any question that it pulled us closer and it helped guys grow up and mature.”

With young players logging lots of minutes, Crean said players have hit walls multiple times this season but are fresh now. He said he has seen his team become better at time-and-score situations and handling momentum. He said players have been as consistent as possible with work ethic.

There have been key moments in the growing process: the Nov. 20 victory against SMU; the Dec. 2 Pittsburgh win; how the team responded after the Eastern Washington home loss Nov. 24. But the process has been gradual, he said, adding, “I don’t know how many companies or teams have that one Eureka moment — here it is!”

With the youngest team in the NCAA tournament, Tim Buckley, the team’s associate head coach, said the challenge had been teaching players the importance of every possession, especially in a conference as stout as the Big Ten. But he said they had done a sterling job of responding to on-court setbacks in the film room and of responding to off-court noise by not responding.

“We don’t pay attention to any



JASEN VINLOVE, USA TODAY SPORTS

“Players had a mentality that they wanted to prove people wrong,” Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford says of his team.

of that,” Buckley said. “All that matters is what we believe, what we think inside our locker room and how we prepare. It’s a very valuable lesson in that.”

The primary issue at Oklahoma State has been postseason success. This is the fifth NCAA

tournament appearance for Ford in his seven years in Stillwater. But he has one NCAA tournament victory — in 2009 against No. 9 seed Tennessee — to show for it.

“We haven’t done the greatest since we have been here

(NCAAs),” Ford acknowledged. “But we have been here.”

And it’s not as if he hasn’t had talent. Landing McDonald’s All-Americans Marcus Smart and Le’Bryan Nash gave the Cowboys headliner standouts.

Entering this season amid lukewarm expectations, the Cowboys clearly have overachieved, and Ford acknowledges that. Victories against Kansas at home and at Baylor help bolster a résumé that was sullied by the team entering the tournament having lost six of seven games.

Ford said no one gave the Cowboys much of a chance at an at-large berth preseason, and players carried a chip on their shoulder because of that. Ford added he is blessed with a group of players long on scrappiness and short on egos.

“Players had a mentality that they wanted to prove people wrong,” Ford said.

A win today against No. 8 seed Oregon could be a notable step toward Ford quieting some of his critics.

At Oregon, it has been a turbulent year for Altman, the program and the university overall.

The university expelled three basketball players last spring and banned them from campus for at least four years after they were accused of non-consensual sex by a fellow student. No charges were filed. Altman later acknowledged he had not properly done his due diligence when he recruited one of those players — Brandon Austin — after the prospect had been involved in a previous sex assault investigation at Providence.

On the court, Altman has done one of the better jobs of any coach in the nation this season. After being picked to finish eighth in the Pac-12 in the preseason, Oregon finished tied for second, earning Altman conference coach of the year honors. No one has ever said Altman wasn’t an outstanding bench coach.

“We made progress throughout February, which was encouraging,” Altman said. “We’ve played four freshmen all year, and those guys continued to grow. We are not a deep team; we are not a very big team. But our guys have managed to win a number of close games.”

Winning can cure a lot. And three programs here in Omaha have shown that Tubby Smith’s so-called Dip, which can occur with programs for a variety of reasons, might not necessarily signal the beginning of the end of coaches.

There might still be an opportunity to salvage things. At least temporarily.

Coaches hope for magic of their time as players

George Schroeder
@GeorgeSchroeder
USA TODAY Sports

COLUMBUS, OHIO This might come as a shock, but Valparaiso’s practices do not include the late-game play they used to call “Pacer,” which anyone who has ever seen *One Shining Moment* knows is one of the most dramatic buzzer-beaters in the history of the NCAA tournament.

But Bryce Drew, who hit that shot to beat Mississippi 17 years ago and is now Valparaiso’s head coach, knows this much:

“It’s definitely something,” he says, “we could draw up if we needed to in the last seconds.”

It probably wouldn’t be necessary. Drew does not feature the shot in recruiting pitches or mention it to his players, but around Valpo it’s inescapable.

“Everybody on our team has seen it multiple times,” says forward Alec Peters, a sophomore. “It’s hard to count how many times we’ve seen it.”

Meanwhile, Buffalo coach Bobby Hurley has taken to wearing the 1992 national championship ring he won at Duke. It’s a reminder, he says, “of what I used to be capable of doing.”

“I just want the kids to keep seeing it,” he says.

The two prominent faces of the NCAA tournament’s past hope to see more magical moments today in the Midwest Region’s second round, when Hurley’s 12th-seeded Bulls play No. 5 West Virginia and Drew’s No. 13-seeded Crusaders meet No. 4 Maryland. If both teams pulled off upsets, they would meet Sunday — and the



GREG BARTRAM, USA TODAY SPORTS

As a player, Valparaiso coach Bryce Drew hit a buzzer-beater considered one of the greatest moments in tournament history.

wayback machine would no doubt crank into full effect.

Though they’re now in their 40s, both guys look like they could still create their own highlights. Hurley, 43, slender with close-shorn hair flecked with gray, says he jumped into practice Thursday morning as an extra body, trying to help his team prepare for West Virginia’s frenzied full-court pressure. While Drew, 40, isn’t graying, he also isn’t practicing with the Crusaders.

“Bobby is probably in a little better shape than me, a little faster,” he says, “so he could help them get better. I think I’d bring our level down, so I stay away from that stuff.”

There’s no getting away from the shot Drew hit in 1998. The highlight seems to be in endless rotation every March. The

length-of-the-floor pass. The quick flip to Drew. Swish — and then the celebration.

As he left the interview room Thursday, Peters shook his head and said, “Everybody wants to talk about ‘the Shot.’”

Two years ago, as part of a celebration of the NCAA tournament’s 75th year, Drew’s buzzer-beater was named one of the top 35 all-time moments in March Madness. And no, he doesn’t get tired of seeing it.

“It was such a great blessing,” says Drew, calling it a breakthrough for Valparaiso.

Buffalo’s breakthrough is just getting to the tournament. And when it comes to big shots, second-year Bulls head coach Hurley has been searching for something more recent to inspire his team.

In November, when Buffalo

played Kentucky — and that’s the day, by the way, when Hurley started wearing the ring — junior forward Justin Moss dunked on Willie Cauley-Stein. Dunked is putting it mildly. It was the kind of play that becomes a poster, except for one little issue.

“I tried to get a picture of it, and I can’t anywhere,” Hurley said. “No one could find the picture. I’m amazed that UK — we just couldn’t get it.”

Hurley calls it a signature play and says, “It shows our players don’t back down. They don’t get intimidated.”

Kentucky won by 19 points, but Buffalo led by five at halftime. The Bulls also led Wisconsin at halftime before falling by 12. Hurley hopes those experiences pay dividends as the program makes its first tournament appearance.

It isn’t much like his experience at Duke, which included three Final Four appearances and back-to-back national titles (1991 and 1992). Buffalo senior forward Xavier Ford sounded like he was channeling a player from Hickory High School in the movie *Hooiers* on Thursday.

“We’re just happy to be here,” Ford said, “and to be able to keep putting midmajor schools on the map and ... our community in Buffalo, and try to make a good run and make special things happen for our team and players.”

Though their tournament experiences were different, their backgrounds are similar. Both are sons of coaches (Homer Drew led Valpo to 640 victories and seven NCAA tournament appearances in 22 years; Bob Hurley is a legendary high school coach at St. Anthony in Jersey City). Both

have brothers who are head coaches (Scott Drew at Baylor, Dan Hurley at Rhode Island).

Bryce Drew, in his fourth season as head coach after six years as an assistant, says coaching was a foregone conclusion. As a six-season NBA stint wound down, he found himself thinking as a coach and yearning to try.

“I could see a lot of things out there (on the floor),” Drew says, “I just couldn’t do them — but as a coach?”

He says he doesn’t talk much about his playing career with his players. “I just kind of get out of the way and let them do their thing,” he says, “because they’ve played so well in big games.”

Hurley, on the other hand, has turned his experiences into consistent talking points.

“He talks all about his NCAA championships and all the Final Four runs he had,” Buffalo guard Shannon Evans says. “I know a lot of stories about that. ... I feel I have a great knowledge of what he has done.”

Though Hurley took a different route to coaching, staying mostly away from organized hoops for more than a decade after his NBA career ended in 1998, he says he knew he’d be back.

“I always had the itch to coach,” he says, “and I understood the commitment and what it takes to coach and the time you need to invest. ... Tournaments like this, days like this, it’s worth it, because my players are experiencing what they’re experiencing.”

For both Buffalo and Valparaiso, it’s at least a taste of what their coaches experienced. Anything more would be magical.

RACE

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WHY RACE TOGETHER?



At a recent Chicago town hall meeting, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz listened as employees talked about the effect of race on their lives.

Racial diversity is the story of America, our triumphs as well as our faults. Yet racial inequality is not a topic we readily discuss. It's time to start.

Conversation has the power to change hearts and minds.

At Starbucks, we've seen this firsthand. Recently, as racially charged events unfolded across our country, we felt a responsibility to act. To start, we called our partners [employees] together and invited them to express what they were thinking or feeling.

In forums from Oakland to New York to Chicago, as well as St. Louis, people shared personal experiences and ideas about how to move our country forward. Men and women from backgrounds as diverse as America's own populace spoke about their childhoods and their neighborhoods, their fears and their hopes. Each story, each voice, offered insight into the divisive role unconscious bias plays in our society and the role empathy can play to bridge those divides. In most of the cities we visited, we also met with senior police leaders to hear their concerns and share what we were learning.

At USA TODAY, while covering those dramatic news stories in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City, among others, we committed to telling the story of the changing face of America. We used our graphical and human storytelling strengths to help our readers better understand the underlying issues that have brought us to this place. We examined our nation, community by community, to help every American learn about each other and rise above bias.

What more can we do together?

RACE TOGETHER is an initiative from Starbucks and USA TODAY to stimulate conversation, compassion and action around race in America. Over the next year we plan to do just that, using all of our strengths in publishing and in stores across America.

Our companies share a philosophy: Elevating diversity is the right thing to do, but it is also a necessity. Our nation is only becoming more diverse. To ignore, dismiss or fail to productively engage our differences is to stifle our collective potential. Diversity of thought and skills lead to more creative ideas and higher performance. Bias, even unintentional slights, sap our potential for shared prosperity while denying our shared humanity.


For all our country's progress, barriers to social justice and economic equality exist in far too many corners. The following pages reveal this reality. Today, we invite you to read this special section, then share your thoughts with family, friends, strangers and with the country. And please see the back page for ways to send us your feedback.

RACE TOGETHER is not a solution, but it is an opportunity to begin to re-examine how we can create a more empathetic and inclusive society — one conversation at a time.




Howard Schultz
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Starbucks Coffee Company




Larry Kramer
President and Publisher
USA TODAY

March 2015



STARBUCKS®



USA TODAY

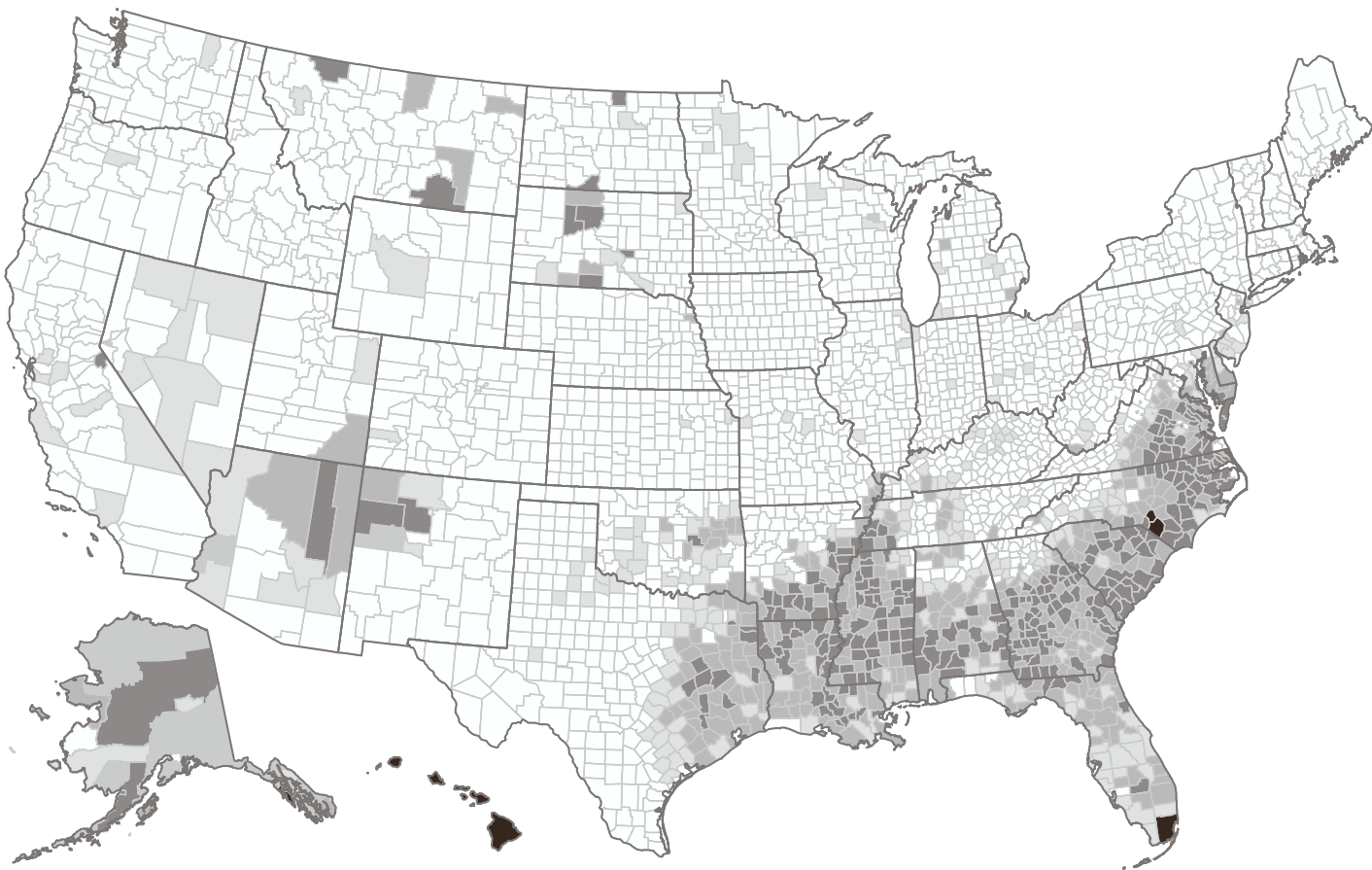
USA TODAY DIVERSITY INDEX

WHAT IS THE CHANCE THAT THE NEXT PERSON I MEET WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM ME?

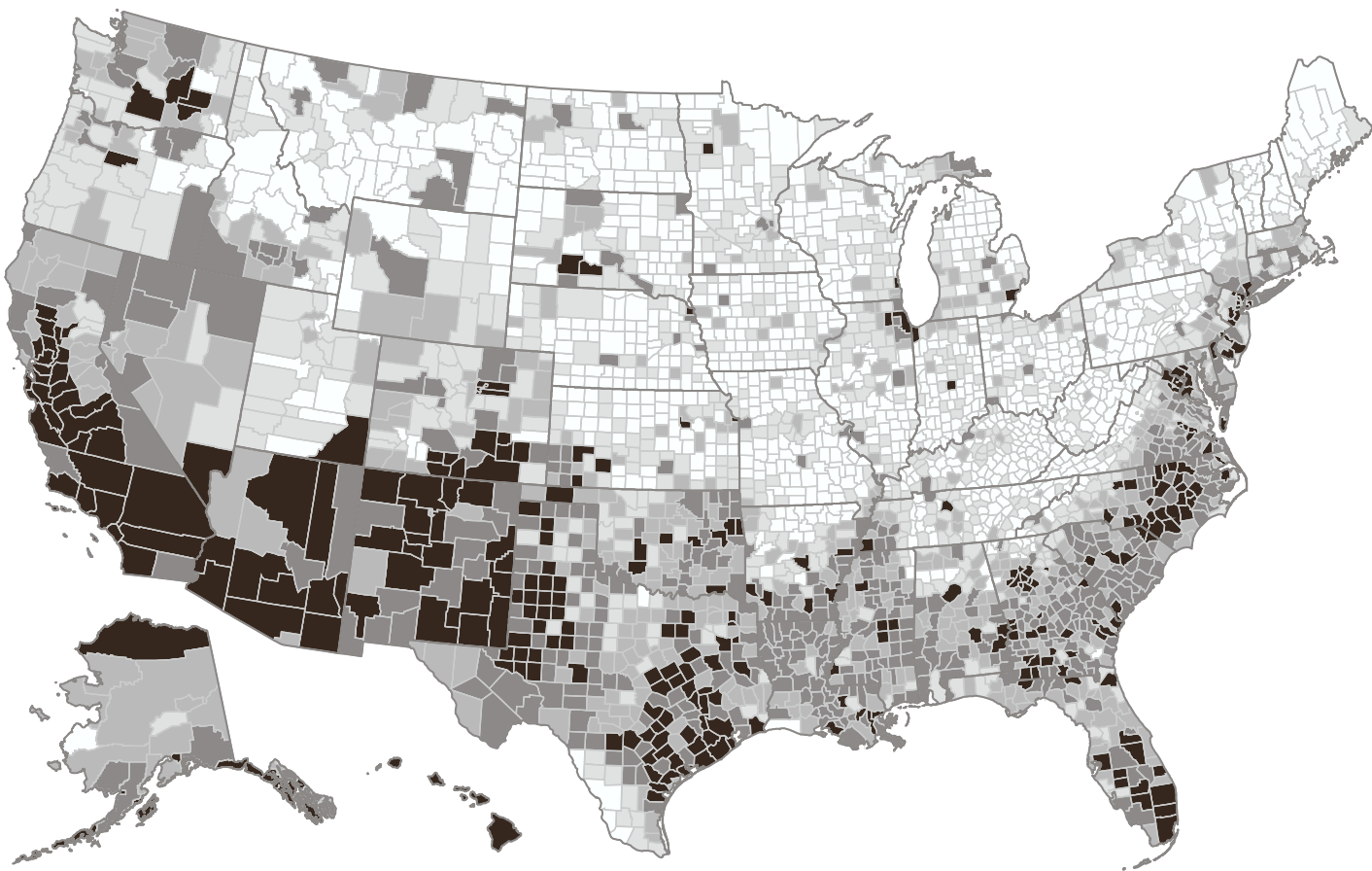
On a scale of 0-100, the chance that two random people are different by race and ethnicity.



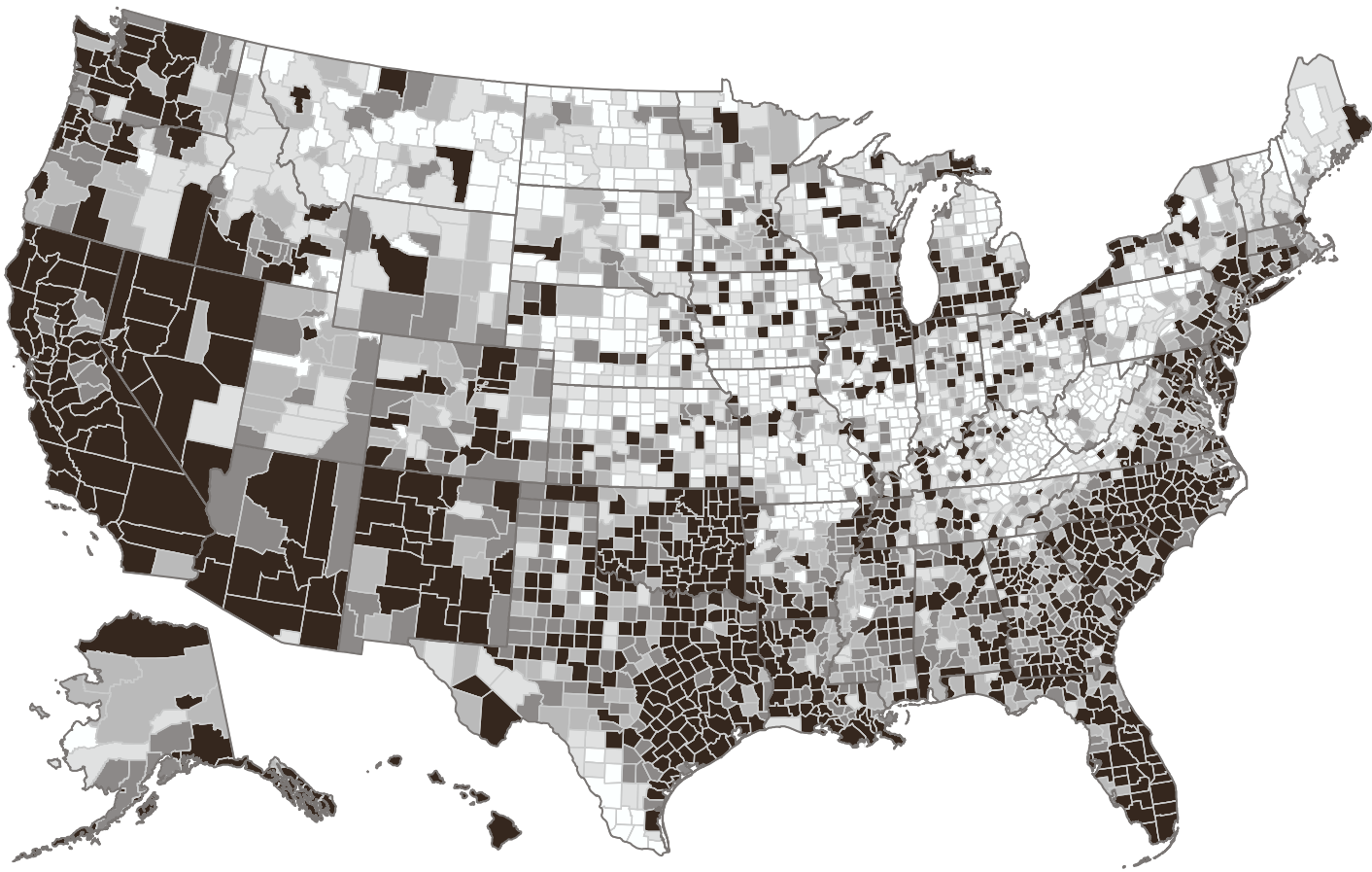
1960
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20



2010
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2060
NATIONAL
INDEX NUMBER
71



Sources: Census Bureau; NHGIS, University of Minnesota; ProximityOne, Alexandria, Va.

Q

When did you first become aware of your race?



“ In elementary school, I remember very vividly having a fight with kids on the playground because they said I needed a green card and I didn’t know what that meant. I went home to my grandparents just absolutely upset. That was the first time I realized I might be perceived as something different.

Teresa Benitez-Thompson, 36, is a Reno social worker and Nevada state lawmaker.



“ When I first came to the U.S. (in 1979) I saw the big difference. It’s not like in El Salvador where we are all Latino. Here you could see the differences in everything, not just the difference in how we conduct ourselves but also how we eat, drink or even how we have fun.

Carlos Castro, 60, is owner of Todos Supermarkets in Woodbridge, Va.



“ As a black person in America, you’re made aware of race at a very young age. I can remember back as early as first grade being conscious of being black. Another thing that makes you realize your race in America is the media. You watch a lot of (TV) shows, and the people don’t look like you.

Chad Golden, 27, works for a health care company in Louisville.



“ That would be in elementary school. Our family moved to the Philadelphia Main Line (from West Philadelphia) and it was the first time when being black made me feel different. Everything I did – going to school, making friends, meeting people – every new situation reminded me that I was an outsider.

Melinda D. Anderson, 51, is a Washington, D.C.- based writer.



“ Gosh, I wouldn’t know. I really don’t. As far as being aware of different races, that’s so long ago I couldn’t tell you when that happened.

Carl Crane, 60, is an auto repair shop owner in Easley, S.C.



“ I was 3. I was wondering why my parents were so particular about what color my dolls were. I was like what’s the big deal, they look like how my friends look. That’s when it hit me, because all the little kids were white and I was the token black girl. My parents just wanted me to play with dolls that looked like me.

Umaara Elliott, 19, of New York City, is a professional dancer.

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS EXPERIMENT

THE ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS THAT GUIDE US

1.

Researchers drafted a legal memo from a hypothetical associate named “Thomas Meyer.”
2.

The memo purposefully contained 22 different spelling/grammar, technical writing and analysis errors.
3.

The exact same memo was sent to 60 partners at different law firms. Half were informed the litigation associate was African-American while the other half were informed the associate was Caucasian.

HERE’S HOW THE PARTNERS RESPONDED

| THE “CAUCASIAN” THOMAS MEYER | THE “AFRICAN AMERICAN” THOMAS MEYER |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| AVERAGE RATING (5.0 WAS “EXCELLENT”) | AVERAGE RATING (5.0 WAS “EXCELLENT”) |
| 4.1 | 3.2 |
| AVERAGE NUMBER OF ERRORS FOUND | AVERAGE NUMBER OF ERRORS FOUND |
| 10.2 | 14.6 |
| REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS | REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS |
| “HAS POTENTIAL” | “NEEDS A LOT OF WORK” |
| “GOOD ANALYTICAL SKILLS” | “CAN’T BELIEVE HE WENT TO NYU” |
| “GENERALLY GOOD WRITER BUT NEEDS TO WORK ON...” | “AVERAGE AT BEST” |

Source: Unconscious bias study by Dr. Arin N. Reeves, Nextions

USA TODAY REPORTERS TALKED TO PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION TO TAP INTO THEIR FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCES AROUND RACE.

SEE MORE QUOTES AND FULL STORIES AT **RACETOGETHER.USATODAY.COM**

TRUE OR FALSE

WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU KNOW
ABOUT RACE? THE
ANSWERS MIGHT
SURPRISE YOU.

IDENTITY

Most people who identify themselves as African American in the United States have some European ancestors.

A new study finds many people who identify themselves as completely white also have African ancestry.

IMMIGRATION

Asians recently surpassed Latinos as the fastest-growing group of new immigrants to the United States.

Almost 10% of blacks are new immigrants from African or Caribbean countries, especially Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

ECONOMICS

White people control almost 90% of the nation's wealth.

From 2002 to 2007, the number of black-owned businesses jumped more than 60% and the number of Latino-owned businesses jumped more than 40%.

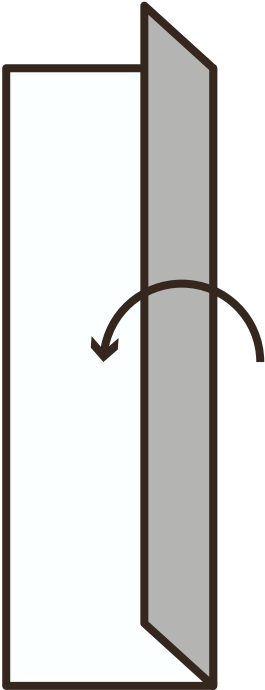
FAMILY

About two in three black children live in single-parent homes.

More white children than black children live in single-parent homes.

QUIZ RESULTS

PLEASE
FOLD
ALONG
DOTTED
LINE FOR
YOUR QUIZ
RESULTS



RESULTS



Most people who identify themselves as African American in the United States have some European ancestors.



Many people in the South who identify themselves as completely white also have African ancestry.



Asians recently surpassed Latinos as the fastest-growing group of new immigrants to the United States.



Almost 10% of blacks are new immigrants from African or Caribbean countries, especially Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.



The nation's wealth is concentrated in the hands of 88.4% of whites, 4% of Latinos and 2.7% of blacks.



From 2002 to 2007, the number of black-owned businesses increased to 1.9 million and the number of Latino-owned businesses jumped to 2.3 million.



About 67% of black children live in single-parent homes.



There are nearly 2.9 million more white children than black children living in single-parent homes.

MORE CONTEXT

The Human Genome Project, which mapped out the complete human genetic code, proved race could not be identified in our genes. A January 2015 study of 23andMe DNA service customers found about 5% of self-identified whites living in South Carolina and Louisiana have at least 2% African ancestry.

Research conducted by USA TODAY shows the nation is in the midst of a 'second wave' of immigration not seen since the Ellis Island period of the 1880s-1920s, largely composed of young, non-European immigrants. As of July 2013, the Asian population had grown to 19.4 million, up 2.9% over 2012, while the Latino population topped 54 million, up 2.1% over 2012, the Pew Research Center notes.

United States' wealth remains concentrated among whites despite gains by blacks and Latinos in education and income. Calculations vary, but researchers agree that blacks are the least wealthy group in America.

Everywhere you look, households are changing. Kids Count Data Center notes about 24.6 million children reside in single-parent homes, with another 3.6 million in homes where neither parent is present. According to the Pew Research Center, less than half (46%) of U.S. kids younger than 18 live in a home with two married heterosexual parents in their first marriage.

PATH TO PROGRESS

NUMBERS SHOW THE CHANCE THAT TWO RANDOM PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICA ON A SCALE OF 0-100

G . I .
1901-1924

27

S I L E N T
Born 1925-1942

36

B O O M E R
Born 1943-1964

45

G E N - X
Born 1965-1979

58

M I L L E N N I A L
Born 1980-2000

62

U N N A M E D
Born 2001-2013

67

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1903
More than 1,200 Mexican and Japanese farmworkers in California organize the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association.

1910
Jim Crow segregation laws and poor economic conditions in the South spur the Great Migration of African Americans to Northern cities.

1915
D.W. Griffith’s landmark, racist film “The Birth of a Nation” debuts amid widespread protests.

1917
Puerto Ricans become U.S. citizens.

1924
Immigration Act declares that no one ineligible for citizenship may immigrate, almost completely ending Asian immigration to the United States.

1926
Negro History Week, forerunner to Black History Month, created by historian Carter G. Woodson debuts amid widespread protests.

1936
Jesse Owens, a runner, wins four gold medals at the Olympics in Berlin, countering Nazi racial propaganda.

1942
Following the Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, President Franklin Roosevelt signs an order to put 120,000 Japanese Americans into 10 internment camps.

1945
Jackie Robinson signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1947, he becomes the first black player in Major League Baseball.

1948
President Truman orders desegregation of military.

1954
In “Brown v. Board of Education,” the Supreme Court declares racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

1963
Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington.

1964
President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

1965
The Immigration and Nationality Act paves the way for more Asian immigrants. Johnson signs Voting Rights Act, which bans discriminatory poll practices.

1970
The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare decides students cannot be denied access to education because of an inability to speak English.

1979
The Sugar Hill Gang’s song “Rapper’s Delight” brings hip-hop to prominence.

1983
Vanessa Williams becomes the first African-American Miss America.

1988
The Civil Liberties Act provides \$20,000 in tax-free reparations and an official letter of apology to Japanese Americans interned during WWII.

1993
Toni Morrison becomes the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in literature.

2001
Colin Powell becomes first African American appointed secretary of State.

2003
Latinos are pronounced the nation’s largest minority group — surpassing African Americans — after Census figures show the U.S. Latino population at about 37 million. The number is likely to triple by the year 2050.

2008
Barack Obama becomes the first African American elected president of the United States.

2014
Nationwide protests erupt after the fatal police shooting of teen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and after a grand jury failed to indict an officer in Eric Garner’s chokehold death on New York’s Staten Island.

USA TODAY research

USA TODAY’S CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA PROJECT FOUND THAT MILLENNIALS ARE THE NATION’S MOST RACIALLY DIVERSE GENERATION SO FAR, AND ALSO THE MOST TOLERANT.

LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF THE NEXT GENERATION AT [USAT.LY/NEWGENERATION](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/06/01/new-generation/2811111001/)

YOUR RACE RELATIONS REALITY CHECK

WHERE DO YOU STAND? USE THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

1.

My parents had _____ friends of a different race.
2.

I have _____ friends of a different race.
3.

My children have _____ friends of a different race.
4.

_____ members of a different race live on my block or apartment building.
5.

I most often talk to someone of another race:
____ At work
____ Church
____ Home
____ Shopping
____ School
6.

In my Facebook stream, _____% are of a different race.
7.

In the past year, I have been to the home of someone of a different race _____ times.
8.

In the past year, someone of a different race has been in my home _____ times.
9.

At work, we have managers of _____ different races.
10.

In the past year, I have eaten a meal with someone of a different race _____ times.

Q

How have your racial views evolved from those of your parents?

Q

Did you have a childhood friend of a different race that you've lost touch with? Why?

Q

What is America's greatest race challenge?

NOW WHAT?

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, BE A PART OF THIS CONVERSATION:

#RACETOGETHER

YOUR VOICE WILL FEED THE NEXT INSTALLMENT IN THIS SERIES AND OUR YEAR-LONG CAMPAIGN



STARBUCKS®



USATODAY

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